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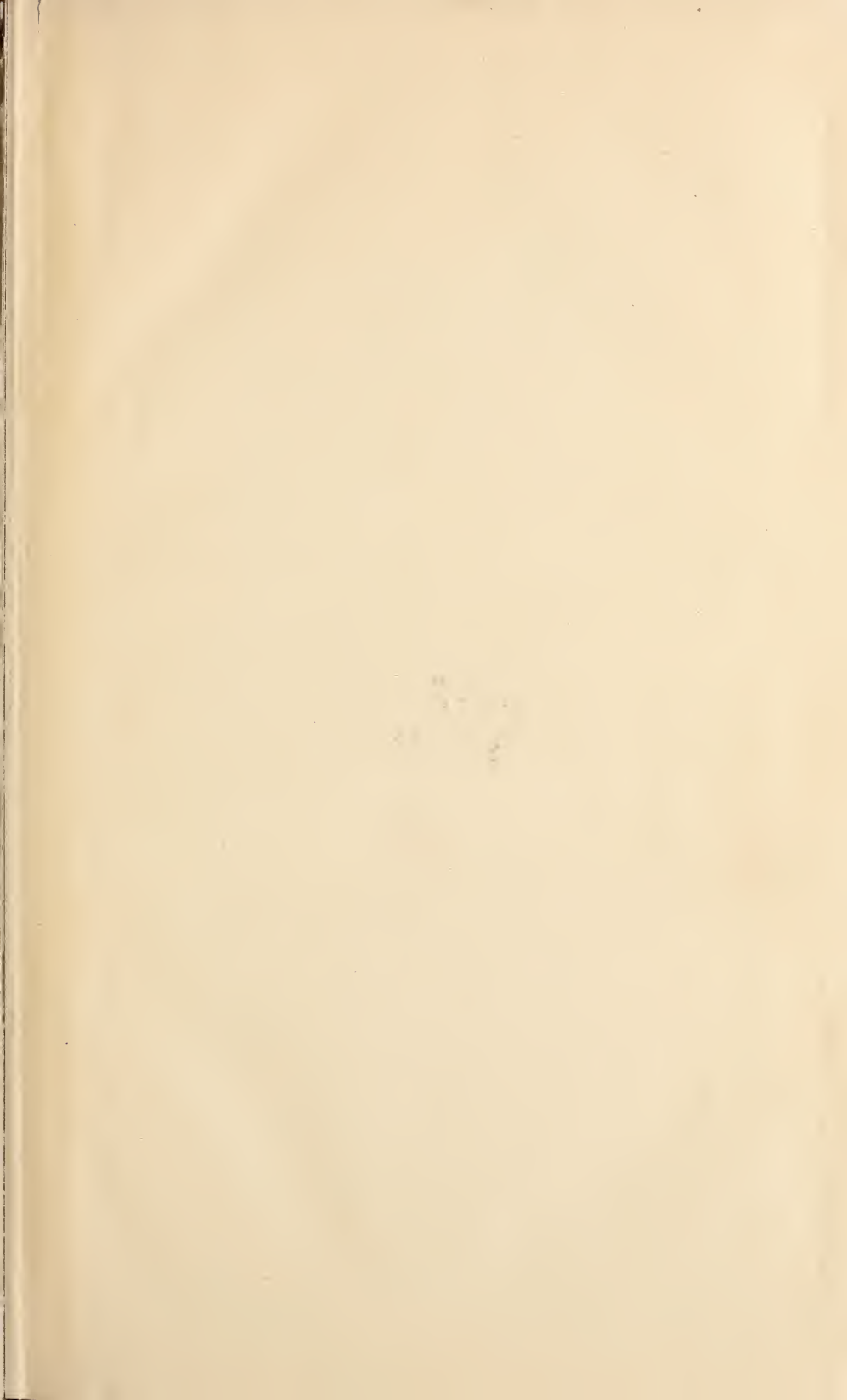
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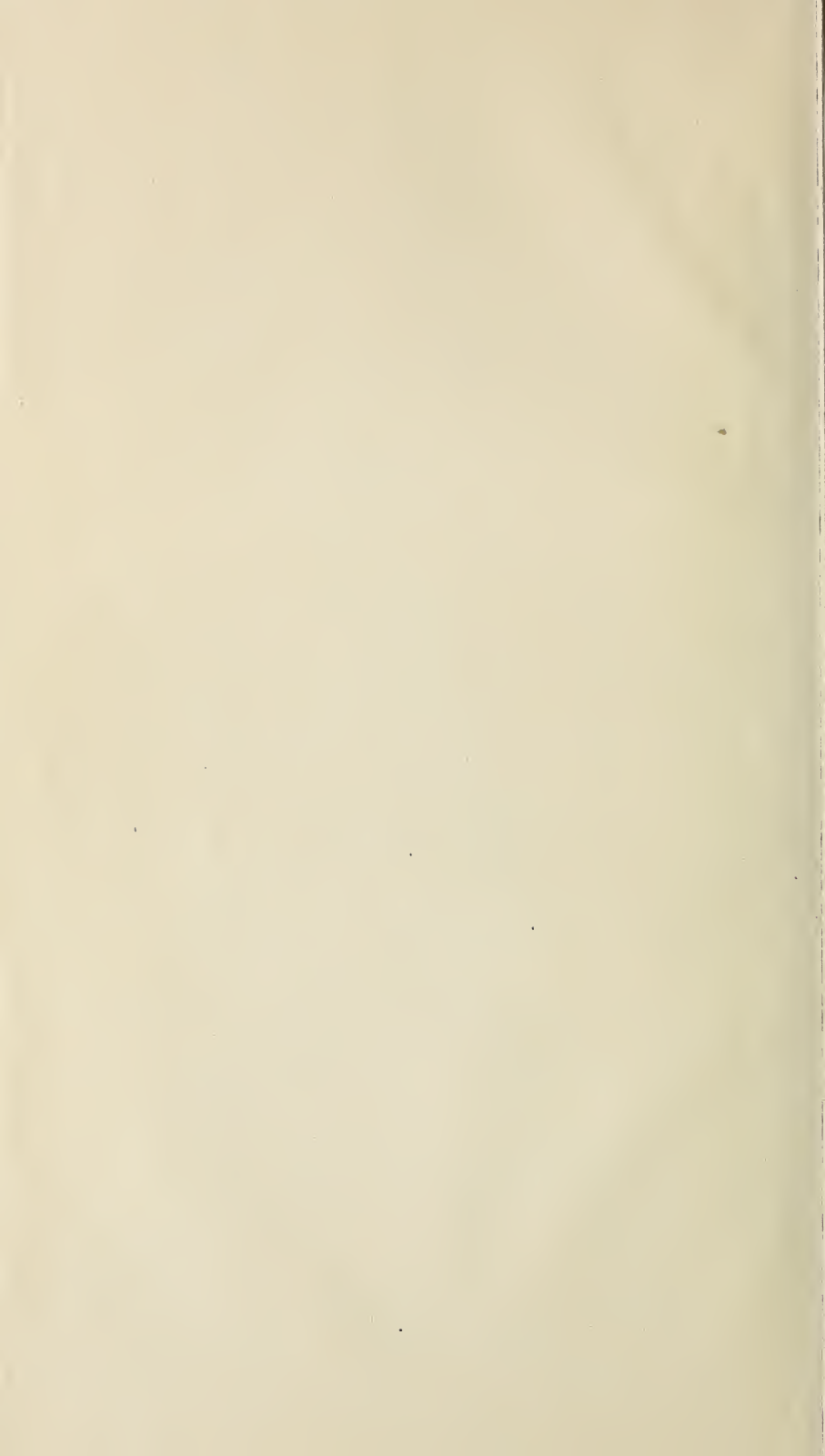
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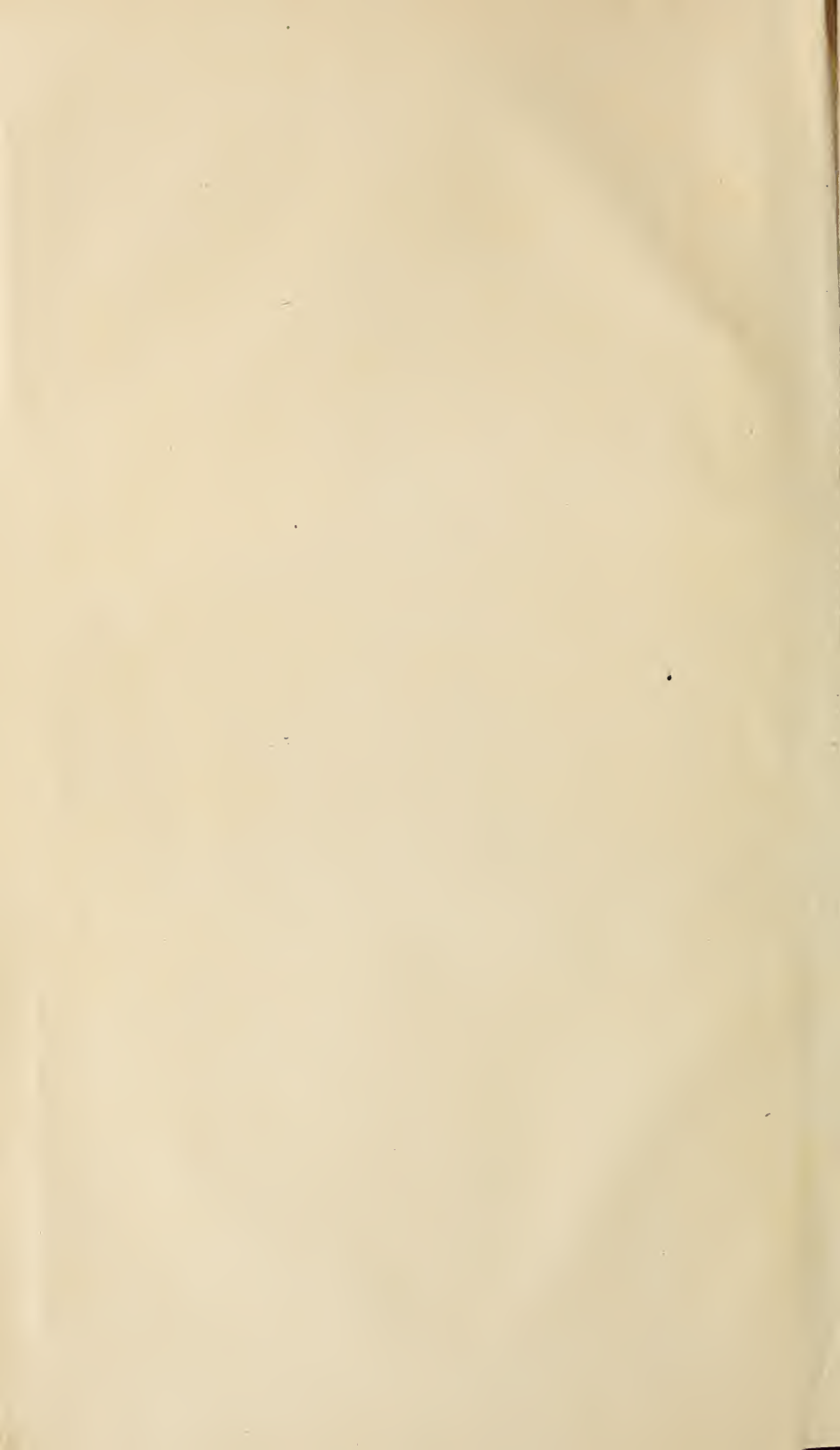
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DOCUMENTS

RELATIVE TO

Indian Trade.

SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE

U. S. Congress. Senate.

By the Committee on Indian Affairs.

FEBRUARY 11, 1822.

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INDIAN TRADE.

WASHINGTON, January 19, 1822.

The Hon. the Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs:

SIR: I have the honor to communicate to you such information as I possess in relation to the subject of the inquiries addressed to me.

Question 1. Have you had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the operation of the factory system? If so, at what points, and since how long?

Answer. During the past summer I had an opportunity of observing the operation of the factory system, at Green Bay, where I am an United States' Indian agent. Information gained on the spot, during a visit to Chicago, in August last, confirmed the results of most of my observations at the former place.

Question 2. What is the *quality* of the goods usually found in those factories?

Answer. The quality of the goods in the factory at Greenbay is generally bad; the blankets, and other articles of wool, particularly so.

Question 3. Have they been furnished with any of a *kind* not suited to Indians?

Answer. The articles, as far as I know, are suited to the Indian market.

Question 4. Have the factory goods, within your knowledge or belief, been sold to any persons except Indians? and, if so, to what description of persons? and were any of those persons fur-traders, with or without licences?

Answer. My impression has always been, that the factories were as open to every applicant as any other store, having seen various persons purchase small articles there. An outfit of goods was furnished by Mr. Irwin, factor at Green Bay, to William Morrill, who was licensed by me in September last, to trade on the Fox river.

Question 5. Have the factors, within your knowledge or belief, in their traffic with Indians, or others, limited their prices to the cost and carriage of the goods? If not, at what advance have they sold?

Answer. In the bills for articles bought by me as agent, the original price is stated, to which 50 per cent. is added. The cost on the transportation of one hundred weight from New York to Green Bay, does not exceed five dollars. This rate would produce a charge of less, certainly, than ten per cent. on the original cost of an invoice of goods for the Indian trade, taking the articles together. How an additional expense of 40 per cent. accrues, when

there, I am at a loss to conjecture. The quarters and store houses occupied by the factor at Green Bay, (and the same is believed to be the case generally,) were built, and are kept in repair, by the troops; details have, within my own knowledge, been made from them to beat the peltries, &c. and I have reason to believe that every kind of labor necessary to these establishments is performed by soldiers. If, as I never heard to be the fact, any thing is given to the soldiers for these labors, it must be a discretionary gratuity on the part of the factors or the superintendent. In sales to individuals, I have reason to believe that the factor is as much regulated in his prices by the state of the market, as any other trader.

Question 6. Have the factors sold on credit?

Answer. I am unable to say what is the practice with respect to Indians. From conversations had with the factor within my agency on the subject of debts due the establishment, it appears to have been his practice to sell to traders on credit.

Question 7. Have they sold for any thing except furs and peltries?

Answer. Sugar is taken in barter with Indians, and money from whoever is capable of paying it.

Question 8. Have they equipped persons with goods, and sent them into the woods to trade, on account of the factories?

Answer. I will take this opportunity to remark, that, though familiar with Indians, from having been stationed as a military officer at posts frequented by them, I had no knowledge of the trade carried on with them, until last spring, when I was appointed an agent. In September or October last, the factor consulted me as to the necessity of obtaining a license for a person whom he intended to send to trade with the Indians, at a place called Milwaukie, on Lake Michigan, about two hundred miles from Green Bay. The factor stated to me that my predecessor considered a license in such case superfluous. Deeming the same checks proper as in any other case, bonds were required, as usual, of the individual, and the license granted.

Question 9. Have the factors purchased furs and peltries with money?

Answer. Not to my knowledge.

Question 10. Have they furnished goods to the United States agents? and, if so, for what purpose? at what advance upon cost and carriage? of what quality? and how have the factors been paid for them?

Answer. The purpose for which the few articles purchased by me at the factory were bought, was to make such presents as the funds appropriated to the agency would admit, to Indians who visited me as an officer of the government, which immemorial custom leads them to expect. The advance upon the cost and carriage I have stated. I have also stated that the quality was bad. Convinced of this, and of the high price, I sent to the agent of the American Fur Company, at Mackinac, for a small invoice of goods to the amount of the balance left in my hands after defraying the expenses of the agency; and I have no hesitation in saying, that they formed a more acceptable present to the Indians, than double the sum paid for them

would have procured from the factory. Whether this proceeds from the extraordinary cheapness of the one, or the unreasonable dearthness of the other, I am not able to say, positively, but my impression is, that it proceeds from the latter. The articles bought of the factor, on public account, are paid for in money.

Question 11. Are the Indians attached to the factory system? Is there reason to apprehend hostilities from them, if they are withdrawn?

Answer. I believe it is admitted, on all hands, that the factories, at those points where alone my opportunities of observation have extended, are altogether useless. I have it from the best authority, that the factor at Chicago has been for years soliciting from the superintendent to be removed from his present position, as his remaining there was wholly useless, and that no notice, whatever, has been taken of his representations. As to any attachment to the *system*, the Indians probably understand nothing of the motives which led to its adoption, and, of course, if it does not tend to give them their supplies on better terms, are indifferent to its continuance.

Question 12. If the factories are withdrawn, will the Indians suffer for want of the customary supplies? or be exposed to greater or less impositions from traders?

Answer. Within the sphere of my observations, so small a part of the wants of the Indians are supplied from the public trading houses, that their withdrawal would not be felt. The competition among private traders is sufficient to prevent exactions on the Indians.

Question 13. Are the Indians judges of the quality of the goods in which they trade, of the reasonableness of prices, and of the value of their own furs and peltries?

Answer. The Indians are very observant, and reputed to be very good judges of the articles which they are accustomed to buy. Their capacity for the petty traffic which they carry on, is believed to be much greater than is generally apprehended. The principal fraud practised upon them is believed to be in the article of spirituous liquors; to which the seller attaches a price in proportion to the penalty he would incur from detection.

Question 14. What effect, if any, has the factory system in conciliating the good will of the Indians towards the United States, in reclaiming them from savage habits, and in converting them to christianity?

Answer. The factor has no relation to the Indian whatever, than that of a trader. He is invested with no other character by the government; and unless I have been strangely misled by those possessing a more intimate knowledge of Indian prejudices than I can pretend to, it would be highly impolitic, to combine in the same person, the functions of trade with those which might result from any measures which should be adopted for ameliorating the condition of the Indian tribes, in which the personal influence of the agent is important. How then is the factor to have influence in conciliating the Indians; in reclaiming them from savage habits, or in converting them

to christianity? Certainly in no other way than by supplying them, on better terms than others, with the articles they are accustomed to use. If the Indian received benefit in this way, he could appreciate it, and it would be a means of conciliation; if the private trader were undersold, any unfavorable influence, which he may be supposed to hold, would be removed; and if an addition were made to the comforts of the Indians, it might tend to humanize them, and lead them to christianity; but admit, as can readily be proven, that the factor sells his goods at no lower rates than other traders, and more need not be said as to the influence of his establishment.

Question 15. State particularly any instances of fraud or improper conduct, on the part of the factors or sub-factors, if any such have come within your knowledge, and their characters as faithful agents of government, or otherwise?

Answer. I have stated, that no instances of gross fraud on the part of factors came within my knowledge. I have reason to believe that there is no uniformity whatever in the prices of goods at the factory of Green Bay; if goods sold, are accounted for at a uniform rate, there is certainly some ground for suspicion. With regard to the character of the factors, I know nothing disadvantageous. The inefficiency of the system appears to have arisen from the wretched character of the supplies, the high prices at which they have been purchased, and the unreasonable advance which has been put upon them. I feel confident that some of the persons interested in the maintenance of this establishment have greatly exaggerated the misconduct of the private traders; have misrepresented the causes why the factories have not been able to keep up a successful competition with them; and made statements of the results, which would attend the withdrawal of the factories, of which the absurdity and hardihood are amazing, to those having any knowledge of the facts.

When the factories were first established, they were probably useful at some points where they were located, in spite of mismanagement; and though competition in the trade has much increased the gratuitous use of \$300,000, with persons paid for managing it, would now be most important to the Indians, but for the most glaring perversion of the charitable purposes of government. As it has been conducted, a useless institution has been kept up for years, by plausible statements on paper, and by general declamations about atrocities which never were committed, and horrors to be apprehended, which must have excited the smile of the orator himself.

After all, a close examination of the sales made at the factories, would be the best means of judging of their importance. The factors have been aware that their existence was in jeopardy, and have not been idle. If any expenses were paid from the fund in trade, the asserted integrity, or the small increase of the capital, would be an evidence of some trade; but as no demands are made upon it, it might remain whole ad infinitum, without a particle of business being done.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BIDDLE.

WASHINGTON CITY, January 21, 1822.

SIR: In conformity with a request of the Committee of the Senate on Indian Affairs, I have the honor to state, (in answer to their several queries) that I have been in a great measure, acquainted with the operations of the factory system, on the Missouri, and Mississippi, since 1807. With the factory on the Mississippi, first at Fort Madison, and now at Prairie du Chien, I have been more particularly acquainted. Until the conclusion of the late war, as well as I can recollect, the goods in those factories were inferior to such as the individual traders made use of. And except the blankets, which have improved since then, those factories or trading houses have continued to be furnished with goods of a very inferior quality, and much less adapted to the Indian trade than those in the hands of individuals.

I know very well that they have been in the habit of selling to officers, soldiers, citizens, and in fact to any body without reserve. Mr. Johnson, factor at Prairie du Chien, has been in the habit of equipping traders *without* license, and sending them to trade with the Indians, on hunting excursions, unrestrained; and did, in one instance, furnish goods to a Canadian, who was an experienced trader, but at that time considered a most exceptionable character, from the circumstance of his having borne arms against us by the sides of the Indians during the late war; and being charged with exciting them to the massacre of the inhabitants of our frontiers, and who could not have obtained license from proper authority.

The factors were not in the habit of limiting their prices to the cost and carriage of their goods; and I am sure never did, except on unsaleable articles. I am not positive as to the advance placed on their goods, but am under the impression that it was estimated at sixty per centum on prime cost. But I know very well that when I was stationed at Prairie du Chien, about four years since, the officers, soldiers, and citizens, in the village and vicinity, in their intercourse with the factory, were charged from forty to sixty per centum, advance on the rates at which similar articles are sold in Saint Louis, which induced us to believe (at the time) that there was some mismanagement in the factory department. The factors have sold on credit, but I think not extensively.

The factories take in exchange, for their goods, every thing the individual trader does, money as soon as furs and peltries: and I believe the factory sustained some loss on the failure of the St. Louis Bank in the year 1817, in notes received from soldiers stationed there. I will not be positive, but I believe that on one or two occasions, the factor on the Mississippi purchased furs and peltries with money, taken in trade at his post.

I do not recollect to have been furnished with any thing by the factories, on the account of government. But they have sometimes furnished other Indian Agents with annuities, and Indian presents; and a few years since, when they were permitted to act in the capaci-

ty of sub Indian agents, they gave presents out of the factory goods themselves, which were charged to, and paid by, the Indian Department.

The Indians cannot be attached to the factories, when they have almost abandoned them. To withdraw the factories, and secure the trade to individual enterprise, under proper regulations, would (in my opinion) be a pleasing circumstance to the Indians of my acquaintance, and lead to no evil, but to happy consequences. They will not suffer for want of supplies, or be subject to greater impositions than they are now. They are generally good judges of the quality of the goods in which they trade, of the reasonableness of prices, and of the value of their own furs and peltries.

The factory system has no good effect in conciliating the good will of the Indians towards us; on the contrary, it is calculated to give them unfavorable impressions, and alienate them from us, by exhibiting the government of the United States in the light of a common trader.

In reclaiming them from savage habits, and in converting them to christianity, these establishments have the same effect as the individual traders. About four years since, when I was stationed at Prairie du Chien, the factor received what was called soldier or citizen goods, to the amount of several thousand dollars; none of which was intended for the Indian trade, and it was said, and generally believed, to be a private concern. I have seen in factories, goods evidently the remnants of old stores; and a few years since, I received of Gen. Clark, who was then superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis, a few goods for Indian presents, (furnished him by the factory department) the most of which was of such inferior quality that I was ashamed to offer them to the Indians, and have them still on hand.

I will not charge the factors with a dishonest act, as I do not know what instructions they may have received from the superintendent of Indian trade; but I know they are not above suspicion.

It is generally believed in Missouri, Illinois, and I believe in Michigan, and by almost every officer with whom I have been stationed on the frontiers, that the superintendent and factors are growing rich in the service.

With the highest respect,

I have the honor to be,

Sir, your most obedient servant,

B. O'FALLON,

U. S. Agent for Indian Affairs on the Missouri.

To the Hon. THOMAS H. BENTON.

WASHINGTON CITY, *January 23, 1822.*

SIR: In answer to the queries proposed to me, and inclosed in your communication as one of the committee of the Senate of the United States on Indian Affairs, under date of the 21st instant, relative to the factory system of trade and intercourse with the Indians, as at present established and conducted, I have the honor to state, in general, such facts as came immediately under my observation in the year 1820, while I was attached to a scientific and exploring expedition, as journalist, under the command of Major Long; that, at the engineer cantonment, a few miles below Council Bluffs, on the Missouri, I saw a party of chiefs and warriors of the Otto tribe, on their way to visit Major O'Fallon, their agent; a gentleman of our party had with him what is termed by the Indians and traders, a Mackinaw blanket, which is of a superior quality of blankets, and such as are generally furnished by the British traders at Mackinaw to the Indians; several of the Indian party noticed this blanket, and each proposed to exchange his blanket, which was of the description of those supplied by the United States or their traders, offering, at the same time, something very considerable in addition, as an inducement to effect an exchange. On inquiry, I found that the Indians were under the impression that the blankets, arms, vermilion, &c. furnished to the Indians at Mackinaw, were of a superior quality to any they received from the American government, or procured from its traders.

In the course of the expedition, I was at a Cherokee settlement, on the north side of the Arkansas river; at the house of Webber, a chief, there was a store, at which I observed a number of the Indians making considerable purchases preparatory to going on the hunt, and, understanding that the United States had a factory established not far distant from this store, for the accommodation of trade with this nation, I inquired of the Indians why they did not trade at the factory; the reply was, that they could procure all the articles they wanted at this store, at a less price and of a better quality, than they could at the factory, and were allowed the same prices for their furs and peltries; they particularly instanced that of blankets, for which there was a difference of a dollar in the price of each in their favor, by trading at this store. A half breed, by the name of Rogers, was my interpreter on this occasion.

At the mouth of the Verdigrise river, (Arkansas) there was a trading house, for the accommodation of the Osage Indians, owned by Mr. Glenn; this store, in its supplies to the Indians, gave general satisfaction, and which I understood from the chiefs and others of the nation.

The foregoing embraces the whole of my observations on the trade with the Indians, during my intercourse with them, which has been most with those nations where no regular traders have yet been established.

It is my impression that the Indians are not particularly attached to the factory system, and that no great inconvenience would result to them if the factories were withdrawn, as their places would, no doubt, be supplied by traders better calculated to satisfy the Indians. It would be their interest to do so, and it would relieve the Indians from a course of trade which they cannot comprehend, in this, that the United States, or rather the government, should be a party in competition with traders for the sale of goods, and purchase of furs and peltries. The factory system, used as a means of conciliating the good will of the Indians towards the United States, or in reclaiming them from savage habits, cannot, in my opinion, have any better effect than if the trade was altogether in the hands of licensed traders, subject to proper regulations. I would here remark, that it is not the interest of the trader or factor, to encourage civilization in the Indian population, for, as they advance in that they recede in the hunt, and the trade becomes less valuable; but few would countenance a system which went to destroy their own interest. Persons capable of instructing the Indian children in the nation in all the first steps to civilization, would be more likely to succeed in that desirable object than the traders.

Respectfully submitted, by, Sir, your most obedient servant,
JOHN R. BELL.

Hon. THOMAS H. BENTON,
Senator United States.

To the Committee of the Senate on Indian Affairs:

I have had the honor to receive your queries relative to the Public Indian Trading Houses, to which I return the following answers:

1st. My "opportunities of becoming acquainted with the factory system" have been frequent ever since the year 1806, and apply to the houses which at different periods were located at Belle Fontaine, Fort Madison, Chicago, Michilimackinac, Fort Osage, Prairie du Chien, Fort Edwards, and Green Bay.

2nd. "The *quality* of the goods usually found in these factories," so far as applies to the greater part of what may be properly called "*Indian goods*," has always been much inferior to the same description of articles furnished by the private traders, excepting perhaps, during the late war, when recourse could not be had to European manufactories, for supplies of the proper kind. Gunpowder, ball, shot, and the like, were found at the factories of as good a quality as at any private establishment; but the blankets, and other dry-goods, generally, have been uniformly 25 to 50 per cent inferior to the corresponding articles supplied by individual adventurers. And the factor at Chicago is also of opinion, that remnants or cut pieces of goods, do not answer *quite* so well, as if they had never been unfolded, or subjected to retail operations, before they reached him.

3d. The factories have been furnished with goods "of a kind not suitable to the Indians," unless the committee should be of opinion that men's and women's coarse and fine shoes, worsted and cotton hose, tea, Glauber salts, alum, and antibilious pills, are necessary to promote the comfort, or restore the health of the aborigines; or that green silk, fancy ribbons, and morocco slippers, are indispensable to eke out the dress of our "red sisters." I have it also from a gentleman, now in Congress, that the factory at Detroit, in 1800, contained a large assortment of goods, so well adapted to the wants of the white population that the merchants of the place felt and complained of its competition.

4th. It is "within my knowledge" that goods have been sold to persons engaged in the fur trade, by the United States factories at Fort Osage, Fort Edwards, Prairie du Chien, Chicago, and Green Bay, more particularly at the first, third, and last of the places just mentioned. And I have every reason to believe that it is the constant practice of all the factors, to sell the government goods to the officers and soldiers of the posts where they are located, and generally to the white and mixed population around them.

In 1816, Mr. Johnston, the factor at Prairie du Chien, furnished goods to a Mr. Antoine Brisbois, whom he well knew had but a few days before been refused a license by the proper officer; and he continued to supply him during 1817, and 1818. In 1818, a Mr. Michael Brisbois, brother of the former, also received goods of the same factor to trade. In 1820, a Mr. Schell, or Shull, became a trader for the same house, and I believe still continues. A Mr. Scott Campbell, was also supplied in 1820; and the rear is closed by a Mr. Duncan Campbell, who *now* trades on the upper Mississippi, an assortment from the same factory, although he is at this moment in the service, (and I presume in the pay,) of the United States, as interpreter to the Indian agency at the military post near the falls of St Anthony.

Mr. Erwin, the factor at Green Bay, in 1817, supplied goods to a Mr. Rouse, amounting to upwards of \$3000. He has also sold to various other traders, at different times, and has now one trader on the Fox river, and another at Miliwauké, on lake Michigan.

At the Fort Osage factory, Mr. Sibley furnished, in 1819, goods to a Mr. Noel Mongrain, who I am informed was at the time in the government employ as the interpreter for the Osages.

All these persons traded with the Indians in different sections of the country, at a distance from the factories, and their rates of sale had no regard whatever to the injunctions of the laws regulating the government trading houses, which decree that the goods shall be disposed of on terms "merely to preserve the capital from diminution."

Antoine Brisbois, in 1816, was not licensed. Noel Mongrain was not licensed. During the agency of the late Colonel John Bowyer, at Green Bay, licences to whomsoever dealt with the factory at that place were deemed superfluous. And I have good ground to believe that the law in respect to licences has been but seldom com-

plied with by those who receive their goods from the public trading houses.

5th. "The factors, in their traffic with Indians or others," do not limit "their prices to the cost and carriage of the goods." Their rates of sale are capricious in the same ratio as competition is weak, or vigorous; at hand, or far off. They charge on *wholesale* operations from 25 to 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. on the invoice cost of the articles, and sometimes even a greater advance; the retail prices are considerably higher still.

6th. To at least a majority of the persons enumerated in the reply to the 4th query, the factors have sold on a credit, and I rather think no one of them paid at the time he purchased. Part of an outfit made at Green Bay, in 1817. I know remains unpaid; and I am led to believe that a balance could still be found against Mongrain, on the books of the Fort Osage factory.

7th. A communication from the Secretary of War to the House of Representatives, "read and ordered to lie on the table," 13th of April, 1820, will shew, that from 1815 to 1819, inclusive, the receipts in *cash* at the factories, collectively, amounted to \$84,622 17: and the same document tells us that lead, bees' wax, tallow, Indian matts, feathers, sugar, cotton, and hides, were also received in payment for goods at the public trading houses.

8th. In 1818, a Mr. *Michael* Brisbois, was furnished by the factor at Prairie du Chien with goods amounting to \$1,808 69. to be traded *on account* of the government. In some instances, the persons supplied were on their individual risks; but they might as well have been on public account, for if their trade failed to realize enough, they possessed no means of liquidating the claims of the factor.

9th. I am not aware that the factors have *purchased* furs or peltries with money; but Mr. Erwin, at Green Bay, *sold* furs to a Mr. Laird, of Erie, Pennsylvania, some years ago. In what the payment consisted I do not now recollect.

10th. The factories have furnished goods to the Indian agents of the United States, on I believe pretty much the same terms as to the traders; but I am not sufficiently acquainted with such transactions to speak positively on the subject.

11th. Perhaps the most satisfactory reply to this query is to be found in the proportion of business the Indians transact at these national establishments, compared with the amount they barter to the private traders; which is, speaking within bounds, nine-tenths in favor of the latter. Did the factories really confer advantages, the natives would undoubtedly be attached to the system, and a much larger portion of their furs and peltries would unquestionably be traded there. But when we see Indians, who have been familiar for years with the goods and prices of the factor, quietly pass the door of the public trading houses, and dispose of their stock to the private traders in the immediate neighbourhood, it seems reasonable to conclude that they do not cherish any thing resembling a strong partiality for those intended representatives of the national bounty.

The amount of trade at the factories has been decreasing for several years, and with its diminution has of course declined the intercourse between the factors and the Indians, until the connection is in some instances nearly destroyed. With the habits of trade, the exercise of friendship is almost inseparably connected: and when the common wants or convenience which originally led to an interchange of commodities, have either ceased to operate, or are turned into another channel, the feelings of mutual regard which commerce produces are soon blunted, and sickly indifference insensibly supplants vigorous friendship. Such a catastrophe has been latterly witnessed at Chicago, where the factor, conscious of the futility of his establishment, solicited, for years, to be removed, but his solicitations were not deemed worthy of acknowledgment.

The factor rarely meets the Indians except during the process of barter, and, protected as he is by a garrison, he has nothing to apprehend from their dislike or resentment. He has therefore no inducement to cultivate an intimacy which only promises to interrupt his ease, or break in upon his retirement, and his knowledge of the natives around him is proportioned to an intercourse so limited and unsociable. The situation of the private trader is very different, for he is constantly in the power of the aborigines, and from his habits of trade he necessarily becomes identified with the tribe he commonly visits. On the other hand, their dependence on him periodically for relief, (which they cannot obtain of the factor,) promotes an attachment that is strengthened with every return of their annual supply, which affords support, and secures comfort, to their families, throughout the inclemency of the succeeding winter.

It is not, in my opinion, necessary to travel further in quest of reasons for the partiality which the Indians evince for the private traders, since their situation relative to the natives, when contrasted with that of the factor, will alone account for the preference. And when to the very opposite deportment of the two characters you add the still more important difference in the quality and price of their goods, we ought no longer to wonder that there exists such a disparity of trade between the private establishments and public trading houses. However benevolent the motives may have been which devised the factory system, there is no doubt that the Indians have failed to appreciate the benefits they were meant to confer, and the protection they were intended to afford; since it is very well known that, sell your goods to an Indian as low as you please, he always considers every obligation cancelled when he pays the price demanded. The natives consider the factories of so very little consequence to them, that their removal from the country would scarcely be remarked; and so far from their abolition involving the frontiers in war, I am confident that parting with these ostensible blessings will not create a murmur loud enough to disturb the primeval stillness of the forest.

12th. There is now annually more goods carried into the Indian country by the private traders than can be disposed of: and, admitting the factories have all the influence for which they are so much extol-

led by those interested in their continuance, the sphere of their operations has not even at this day any control whatever over three-fourths of our present Indian trade. Since therefore they can at most only effect so small a portion of the trade, and that nothing can be more unfounded than the existence of extortion or imposition where their influence cannot possibly reach, I confess I am at a loss to imagine what foundation there can be for any well-grounded apprehension. Independent of the many new adventurers which the abolition of the public system of traffic would in all probability tempt into the trade, the present annual surplus of goods will alone be equal to any deficit which may be feared on withdrawing the factories; and those who are acquainted with the present state of our Indian trade, will readily admit that competition is sufficiently active and extensive among the private traders, to secure to the natives every where ample supplies on reasonable terms.

13th. It may be safely asserted that all our Indians, accustomed to trade, are competent judges of the goods they purchase of the whites. Using always the very same articles of merchandise, and uniformly the same description of goods, the intercourse of long established trade, sometimes with associations of private traders, but most frequently with contending adventurers, has, by affording them constant opportunities of contrasting prices, enabled them to decide with great accuracy on the quality and consequent value, not only of every thing they buy, but of every article they sell. And I am positive the Indians are generally quite as capable of judging correctly in regard to both the quality and price of the goods they deal in, as a large majority of the civilized community is to decide on the rates of our retail shopkeepers.

14th. The detailed answer to Quere 11th, has shewn how very limited the factor's influence over the natives must necessarily be, from the peculiarity of his situation; and thence may be gathered the probable effect of the system he represents, "in conciliating the good will of the Indians." But there are other reasons for the failure of the system in producing this conciliation.

Along the chain of great lakes, from Ontario to Superior, the Indians within our lines have been, ever since the conquest of Canada, in habits of intimacy with the Canadian Indian authorities; and this intercourse, it is well known, continues with our Indians to the present day. At the British frontier posts, all the public or government Indian goods, have for the same period been annually bestowed gratuitously on the natives, and when our factories were carried to the country, approaching Canada, the Indians were so firmly of opinion that the goods deposited there were to be disposed of after the manner of the British; that they frequently charged the factors with selling for their own emolument what their Great Father intended as *resents*. In the course of time, the undeviating practice of the factor convinced them how much they were mistaken; and when no longer at liberty to doubt, the impression became universal that their *American* Father must be poor indeed, since he sent his goods into their

country to be sold for skins, as by the common trader who depended on his traffic as the means of subsistence. The marked difference between the American factors and the British Indian agents, gave rise to comparisons but little favorable to the character of our country; and while England's king, by unanimous consent, received from the Indians the appellation of Father, the President of the United States was degraded to the level of a common adventurer.

It is also worthy of remark here, that the Indians, during the late war, exhibited a more settled inveteracy against us in the districts having the benefit of public trade, (say, for instance, fort Wayne, Chicago, and fort Madison) than they evinced in other sections, equally exposed, but without factories; and however true it may be, that causes other than the mere location of a public trading house produced this vindictive spirit, yet it cannot be denied by those conversant with the subject, that if, instead of the trafficking disposition we exhibited to the natives, for fifteen years before the war, we had adopted a more dignified policy in our Indian relations, it is hardly to be believed that nations who for many years had only met each other as enemies, would have at once, by common consent, buried their animosities, united as members of the same family, and raised the tomahawk against us with such unparalleled unanimity.

The foregoing facts and observations attest most fully the positive inefficiency of the system, in conciliating the Indians; for, at fort Wayne, Chicago, and fort Madison, previous to the war, public trade was in full operation, and flourished I believe beyond any thing we have seen in these latter days; and yet, so far from "reclaiming them from savage habits," they did not in a single instance during the whole contest, avert the dreadful effects of an irruption into our defenceless frontier; nor did they even disarm the savage of one particle of his natural ferocity.

Little as I value the factory system, so far as it is considered a means of attaching the Indians to the United States, I do think they are, if possible, still less capable of producing religious reformation in either the Indians or any body else. The factories have now degenerated into mere places of trade, to which all colors, descriptions, and denominations of people resort for barter; and bear a much more striking resemblance to common *country stores*, than to the public establishments of a benevolent government. The desperate efforts which the factors make to secure individually their reputations as traders, and jointly to prop the questionable pecuniary credit of the whole system; are, in my opinion, but little favorable to that serenity of mind, mildness of disposition, and undeviating conformity to a strictly moral deportment, which we, in civilized society, consider essential qualities in those we trust as our guides "to another and a better world." Even *we* value example as high as precept; with savages, the former is most likely to be efficacious. And believing these gentlemen to be equally fallible with the generality of their brethren in trade, I should imagine they were selected by the Super-

intendent of Indian Trade, more for their trafficking than apostolic abilities, as the head of that department is too intimately acquainted with the nature of missions among a rude people, to have appointed the present incumbents to teach repentance and remission of sins to the children of the wilderness. It is hardly necessary to add, that I do not believe either factories or factors are likely to enlarge the jurisdiction of the church.

15th. I have no knowledge whatever that there is a want of probity in any of the factors. It is, nevertheless, true that they have, in some cases, furnished goods to men whose characters were not above suspicion, and, without giving bond for their correct deportment in the Indian country, have sent them to ramble (unrestrained by any pecuniary penalty) over that part of the forest they chose to select for the theatre of their operations; and that in these vagrant excursions they frequently met the debtors of the private traders, and induced them to part with the means of paying what they in the autumn obtained on credit from the trader in clothing to protect their families against the rigors of the following winter, and wherewith to pursue the chase advantageously. Now this might not legally be called dishonesty, but, sure I am, it is hardly fair.

It is no less true, that the factory system pays no interest for the fund which supports it; that all the officers, whether superintendent, factors, or others, are paid their salaries out of an appropriation totally distinct from the trade fund; that the transportation from any of the Atlantic cities, or even Georgetown, in this district, to any of the Northwestern factories, *does not* cost ten per cent. on the invoice of a regular assortment of Indian goods, and still less on such mixed supplies as are found at the public trading houses; and that, notwithstanding the factors usually sell at a rate to yield an average advance of at least fifty per cent. on the cost of their goods, and possess, besides, all these other extraordinary advantages, the original fund is in danger of diminishing.

I confess, that to me it appears inexplicable, how any trade can possibly fail to maintain itself when it maintains all its means of operation, both fiscal and executive, free of every charge; and the wonder increases, when we recollect that the sales are at an average of forty per cent. clear gain. I however trust that the committee will succeed in giving to this commercial phenomenon a tangible form, although I much fear they will find it the unprofitable labor of "chasing a shadow." I cannot close the answer to this quere without stating my conviction that the factors are every where industrious, persevering, and as much devoted to their business as any men ought to be.

For my own part, I believe these public trading houses of a character completely negative, for the purpose of controlling the propensities of the Indians, and attaching them to the United States, and I am confident, from my own knowledge, acquired by sixteen years of actual experience and observation, backed by information which I deem unquestionable, that the factories can never conciliate the good

will of the Indians, reclaim them from savage habits, convert them to christianity, confer any real advantage in trade, or, for an hour, preserve peace on the frontiers.

In illustration of several statements I have made, I transmit herewith some invoices and accounts from —, of the factories, which may be relied on as genuine. And I have to request that the papers in question be returned to me, when no longer required by the committee.

RAM'Y. CROOKS.

Washington, January 23, 1822.

Invoice of Merchandise furnished Michael Brisbois from the United States' Factory at Prairie du Chien, to trade on public account with the Indians at or near the Fox Lead Mines, on the River Mississippi, 23d of July, 1818.

2 pair 3 point blankets, new	- - - at \$12 92	\$ 25 84
3 pair 2½ point blankets, new	- - - 11 12	33 36
3 pair 2 point blankets, new	- - - 9 17	27 51
3 pair 1 point blankets, new	- - - 6 67	20 01
3 pair old 2 point blankets	- - - 3 79	11 37
1 piece blue stroud 21 yards	- - - 2 83	59 43
1 lb. blue beads	- - - 1 84	1 84
½ lb. white do.	- - - 1 84	92
10 masses scarlet garnet	- - - 50	5
6 do. mock garnet	- - - 37½	2 25
1 bundle green beads 1 lb.	- - - -	2 50
1 groce brass finger rings	- - - -	2 25
6 doz. white do. do. with glass	- - - 25	1 50
36 hair pipes	- - - 35½	12
1 doz. children's bells, large	- - - -	33½
1 nest tin kettles	- - - -	9 50
50 pair silver ear bobs, large	- - - 31¼	15 87½
50 pair do. ear bobs, less	- - - 25	12 50
2 ps. ribbon, 1 inch wide	- - - 2 50	5 00
2 ps. fancy ribbon, 1½ and 1 inch wide	- - - 3 50	7
1 ps camper down calico, 28½ yards	- - - 70	19 95
1 ps. wide calico, 20 yards	- - - 83½	16 70
1 ps. domestic calico, 12 yards	- - - 66½	7 90
1 ps furniture calico, 28½ yards	- - - 50	14 25
4 copper kettles, wt. 21 lbs.	- - - 1 33½	28
2 rifles	- - - 22 50	45
1 keg powder, 50 lbs.	- - - 80	40
2 pair arm bands	- - - 8 54	17 08
2 pair wrist do.	- - - 3 63½	7 27
2 crowbars	- - - 5 33	10 66
2 picks	- - - 2 92	5 84
2 hammers	- - - 3 33½	6 67
2 lbs. vermilion	- - - 5	10
		\$ 485 39

Errors excepted.

J. W. JOHNSON, U. S. Factor.

Invoice of Merchandise furnished Michael Brisbois from the United States' Factory at Prairie du Chien, to trade on public account with the Indians at or near the Fox Lead Mines, on the Mississippi, 9th of August, 1818.

8 pair 3 point blankets, new	- -	at \$ 12 92	\$ 103 36
8 pair 2½ point blankets, new	- -	11 12½	89
5 pair 3 point, old stock	- -	9 17	48 85
5 pair 2½ point do.	- -	4 92	24 60
3 ps. blue stroud, 56¾ yards	- -	2 83	160 60
1 ps. superfine red stroud, 22¼ yards	- -	3 17	70 53¼
3 ps. furniture calico, 84¼ yards	- -	55	46 34
1 ps. fancy do. 29½ yards	- -	50	14 75
3 lbs. vermilion	- -	5 00	15
5,000 blue wampum	- -	7 50	37 50
5,000 white do.	- -	5 00	25
10 masses mock garnet	- -	37½	3 75
2 bundles green beads, 2 lbs.	- -	2 50	5
100 pair large ear bobs	- -	32	32
100 pair less do.	- -	25	25
100 pair less do. with stems	- -	21	21
1 doz. cow bells	- -	-	10
6 pair ear wheels, 2 inches	- -	1 66⅔	10
4 pair do. 3 do.	- -	2 08	8 32
2 pair arm bands, eagle	- -	8 54	17 08
6 pair wrist bands, do.	- -	3 63	21 78
6 hair plates do.	- -	1 50	9
1 box rifles 10, No. 4	- -	22 00	220
			\$1015 46¼

Errors excepted.

J. W. JOHNSON, U. S. Factor.

Invoice of merchandise furnished Michael Brisbois from the United States' Factory, at Prairie Du Chien, to trade with Indians at or near the Fox Lead Mines, on the Mississippi, 15th August, 1818.

1 box containing ten rifles, at \$13 67,	- -	\$136 70
100 hair pipes, 207 inches, at 7 cents,	- -	14 49
2 papers of needles, at 25 cents,	- -	50
1 lb. colored thread,	- - - -	2
		153 69
Advance 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent,	- - - -	102 46
		\$256 15

Errors excepted.

J. W. JOHNSON, U. S. Factor.

Invoice of merchandise furnished Michael Brisbois from the United States' Factory at Prairie Du Chien, to trade with Indians near the Fox Lead Mines, on the Mississippi, 18th September, 1818.

3 long square barrel rifles, \$13 67,	- - -	41 01
3 short rifles at \$12 50,	- - - -	37 50
1 dozen fire steels,	- - - -	50
		79 01
Advance 66 $\frac{2}{3}$,	- - - -	52 68
		\$131 69

Errors excepted.

J. W. JOHNSON, U. S. Factor.

DR. *Michael Brisbois to John W. Johnson, for viz.*

June 25, 1819.	4 boxes antibilious pills,	\$0 75	3 00
July 5,	3 lb. tea, - - -	3 50	10 50
16,	1 slip of thread, - - -	-	0 37½
19,	6 pipes, - - -	12½	0 75
Aug. 29,	1 box antibilious pills, - -	-	0 75
Sept. 9,	3 lbs. of tea, - - -	3 50	10 50
Oct. 10,	6 lbs. do. - - -	3 50	21 00
19,	4 lbs. do. - - -	3 50	14 00
Nov. 11,	1 pair fine shoes, - - -	-	3 00
	1 pair coarse do. - - -	-	2 50
	2 do boy's do. - - -	-	3 00
	1 do women's leather do. - -	-	1 50
Nov. 15,	3 lbs tea, - - -	3 50	10 50
22,	1 pair boy's shoes, - - -	-	1 50
24,	2 tin pans, - - -	-	3 00
Dec. 7,	2 lbs. tea, - - -	3 50	7 00
Dec. 13,	1 pair coarse shoes, - - -	-	2 50
Jan 22, 1820.	2 do boy's do - - -	-	3 00
Feb. 9,	1 do fine do - - -	-	3 00
15,	1 do coarse do - - -	-	2 50
22,	1 sash, - - -	-	3 00
Mar. 9,	4 yards Waterloo prints, - -	75	3 00
Apr. 6,	1 pair coarse shoes, - - -	-	2 50
May 20,	8 yards Carlisle plaid, - -	75	6 00
			<u>\$118 37½</u>
June 25, 1819.	CR. By balance due on old acc't,	\$3 40	
Nov. 24,	600 lbs. flour for Shull,	36 00	39 40
			<u>78 97½</u>
	Balance due J. W. Johnson, - -	-	
	CR. By discount with J. P. Gates,	25 00	
	400 lbs. flour for Indians,	24 00	
	this sum for baking flour	4 00	53 00
			<u>25 97½</u>
	DR. By 4 pieces Indian chintz, - -	-	11 68
	2 lbs. vermilion, - - -	-	10 00
			<u>47 65½</u>
	CR. By baking up to this date,	25 00	
	a barrel of pork,	25 00	25 00
	Balance paid in tea, - - -	-	<u>\$2 34½</u>

Dr. Joseph Rolette in account with J. W. Johnson, for

1819.

June 25,	Note for balance of old account,		\$ 126 21 $\frac{1}{4}$
July 19,	1 fancy silk handkerchief, per Mrs. R.		2 00
Aug. 7,	1 skein silk,	do.	0 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
12,	1 bottle peppermint,	do.	0 50
17,	1 skein silk,	do.	0 12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sept. 21,	1 large dressed deer skin		1 50
23,	2 do. do.		2 75
Oct. 2,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. brass wire, at \$1 75		2 62 $\frac{1}{2}$
25,	3 lbs. tea, delivered Lablanc, at \$3 50		10 50
	2 pair women's leather shoes, per Ferriboult		3 00
	2 do. do. Lablanc		3 00
	1 gun for Sioux Indian (security)		15 00
Nov. 3,	1 dressed deer skin, delivered Bell		1 50
11,	4 do. do. \$1 00		4 00
	1 box antibilious pills		0 75
12,	1 rifle, for Reed		22 00
22,	1 pair coarse shoes, \$2 50 } delivered Polly		4 00
	1 women's do. 1 50 }		
Dec. 10,	1 pair men's fine shoes		3 00
	1 women's do.		1 50

1820

Jan. 16,	1 dressed deer skin, \$1 00 } order,		1 50
	1 pair mocasins, 50 }		
17,	1 belt, \$3 00, 3 lbs. wax, \$1 00, for Johnson		4 00
18,	2 lbs. alum		0 50
24,	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Glauber salts		0 50
Feb. 3,	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Glauber salts		0 50
15,	1 pair fine shoes, per Polly, for Mr. Lamouch		3 00
25,	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds. green silk, at \$2 00, 2 50 } Mrs. R.		3 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ribbon, 25, 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ }		
29,	$\frac{1}{2}$ green silk, per Polly		1 00
March 1,	3 cotton check, \$3 00 } L. Brisbois		3 50
	4 ferretting 50 }		
13,	5 pairs coarse shoes, at \$2 50, order		12 50
	1 do. 2 50 } orders		6 00
	2 col'd cotton hose 3 50 }		
14,	2 coarse shoes 5 00 } orders		9 75
	1 shawl 3 00 }		
	1 pair worsted hose 1 75 }		
22,	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. alum		0 50
30,	1 lb. tea, per order		4 00
31,	3 pairs mocasins		1 50
April 8,	5 lb. tea, delivered Polly, at \$4 00		20 00
May 10,	2 pairs mocasins (order) at 50 cts.		1 00
	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. glauber salts		0 25
15,	$\frac{1}{2}$ tea, per Jeanson		2 00
17,	2 do. per order		3 00

1820.

May 17,	$\frac{3}{2}$ lb. Glauber salts (order)	0 50
18,	2 whipsaw files, per order	1 00
23,	9 yards calico, per Mrs. Brisbois, at 75 cents	6 75
30,	cut glass beads for Mrs. R. per Polly	0 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1 fusil, sold Sioux Indian, for which you became responsible	15 00
	1 plough mould, loaned you November 16, 1818, weighing 6 lb. which was not included in old settlement	0 50
June 1,	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. salts	0 50
	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards domestic cotton, at 75, \$4 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	} 10 00
	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ white cotton, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$, 5 87 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	delivered Mrs. Brisbois, per order,	
3,	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ yards domestic cotton, per Mrs. R. at 75 cts.	1 31 $\frac{1}{4}$
		<hr/> 322 90 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Your acceptance for Col. R. Dickson's account, amounting to	45 50
		<hr/> <hr/> \$368 40 $\frac{1}{4}$

Cr. Joseph Rolette in account with J. W. Johnson, by

1819.		
Sept. 17,	$\frac{1}{2}$ doz. each, table, desert, and tea spoons,	\$64 17
Dec. 17,	45 lbs. flour, at 6 cents	2 70
1820.		
April 26,	1 pair andirons, 44 lbs. at 15 cents	6 60
		<hr/> \$73 47
June 5,	1 gun, (twice charged)	15 00
	Amount of Indian account	53 91 $\frac{1}{2}$
	John W. Johnson's account	35 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Contingent account	27 00
	J. W. Shull's account	16 25
	Amount of account for repairing tools for Shull	6 75
	Cash for Dickson's account	45 50
		<hr/> \$272 91
	Balance due, charged on day book	95 49
		<hr/> <hr/> \$368 40

This day settled all book accounts, and find the balance due from Mr. Rolette to be ninety-five dollars and forty cents, which stands charged to him on day book under date of June 5, 1820.

OFFICE INDIAN TRADE,

January 28th, 1822.

SIR: I have the honor, in answer to your communication of the 24th instant, to reply to it in the order in which the several queries are put.

First. "In what towns or cities have you *usually* purchased goods, including hardware, powder, lead, and tobacco, for the Indian trading houses?"

It is a principle in commerce, that at whatever point a demand exists there will exist a corresponding ability to supply it. When this office was in Philadelphia, the principal part of the articles bought by it were procured in that city; when the office was removed to the District of Columbia the demand in Philadelphia became gradually less and less, and for the reason that our merchants, having the office and its wants always in view, laid themselves out to provide the articles to supply them; whilst the Philadelphians, losing sight of it, were, in the same ratio, unprepared to meet them; and especially does the principle apply to articles used in Indian supplies, they being of but little value except for Indian purposes. Purchases, however, have been, and still are, made in our principal cities of many articles; but our best supplies, and the principal bulk of them, for several years past, have been furnished at the door of this office.

Tobacco, for five years past, has been bought at Pittsburg and St. Louis, powder chiefly from Dupont's factory, at Wilmington, in Delaware, or from his agent, Mr. Cazenove, in Alexandria. I have bought powder in Kentucky, but the factors expressing the disapprobation of the Indians with it, Dupont's has been generally sent, and at less price.

Second. "How much have you paid per pound for these last enumerated articles, for the last year?"

For tobacco last year was paid, at St. Louis, the only place at which the article was bought, eight cents for inferior, and sixteen and two-thirds for superior.

No occasion has arisen to make it necessary to buy lead, nor has any been purchased.* Our stock at St. Louis is generally considerable, received from the Sac and Fox Indians, &c.; and from St. Louis it is distributed to the points of our intercourse where it is required.

Third. "What is the cost, per pound, of carrying Indian goods from Georgetown, D. C. to St. Louis?"

The cost of transportation varies according to circumstances. If the demand for transportation be great, the price is high in that proportion. Last year it cost, at an average, to St. Louis, four and a quarter cents per pound. This year it will be about the same. It has been as high as nine cents per pound, but this is unusual. It ranges between four and six cents per pound.

*One only exception in———, which was for the lake factories, and therefore bought at Pittsburg.

Fourth. "At what places have the furs and peltries usually been sold which you have received from the factories?"

At this town; where, when it can be so arranged, an annual sale is held. Furs and peltries which cannot be got here in time, but which would arrive after the period generally allotted for the public sale, and which, if kept over till another year, would be eaten up by the expenses and by worms, are sold at New Orleans, Mobile, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and sometimes at St. Louis, as it is found most convenient.

Fifth. "What price has beaver fur and deer skins commanded, by the pound, at the sales made by you in the year 1821, for cash or credit?"

In 1821 first quality beaver sold from \$3 to \$4 90 per pound; inferior or southern, \$1 30 to \$2 50 per pound. Red deer skins sold from 30 to 33 cents, grey at 22 cents, and shaved from 40 to 41 cents per pound. These were the prices obtained at the annual public auction held in this town in November last. The skins were northern skins, and these always command much higher prices than the southern. In Philadelphia, at public auction, in July last, best quality southern deer skins sold at 27 cents per pound. In New York, shaved skins sold at 30 cents; red at 24, and grey at 20 cents; damaged, as usual, half price. Southern beaver sold in New York, at the same time, from fifty-six cents to \$1 12½ per pound. These sales are generally on a credit of from three and five months.

In illustration of the principle to which I have had the honor to refer, respecting the demand and the ability to supply it, I herewith inclose sundry letters and copies of letters, which may go to shew that, although the chief reliance is upon our own merchants, for our Indian supplies, yet the state of the markets in our principal cities is inquired into. With what success, the answers to the letters herewith enclosed may serve to illustrate. It will be borne in mind that the agents written to have their interest in their commissions in finding and buying the goods, if they could be procured.

Letter marked A, dated 8th May, 1818, contains a request, to the agents in New York and Philadelphia, to be informed of the state of the markets for the articles named in them. B is the answer from the New York agent. Letter C is the answer from the Philadelphia agent. On comparison of the weights &c. of the lot he offered to sell, with those called for in my letter, it will be seen that they were not of the proper kinds. But being better than any that could then be had, I proposed afterwards to buy them, when the price had risen 25 per cent. See letter marked D.

Such is an epitome of the markets of New York and Philadelphia in relation to their ability to furnish *Indian supplies*. The reasons are to be found in the absence of the demand, from the view of the merchants of those places, and in the fact that Indian goods, if not of the proper kinds, are articles in which the importers are sure to lose, they being generally unsuited to other purposes.

It is the practice of this office to give to merchants samples and descriptions of all articles in which it deals, reserving the right of selection, and purchasing nothing till it arrives and is inspected, and compared, and approved. This market has become therefore the best in the Union for Indian articles.

With great respect, Sir,
THOMAS L. M'KENNEY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

Hon. HENRY JOHNSON,
Chairman of Committee of Indian Affairs.

INDIAN TRADE OFFICE,
Georgetown, May 8th, 1818.

SIR: I will thank you if you will take the trouble to make inquiries in your city, after the following articles, and of the following descriptions.

N. W. Company blankets, so called; three points, to measure 6 feet 6 inches long, and 5 feet 6 inches wide, to weigh per pair $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Two and an half points, to measure 6 feet 3 inches long, and 5 feet two inches wide, to weigh per pair $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Strouds from 6 to 7 quarters wide, to weigh per yard $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

If those goods can be had, please to inform me at what prices.

Respectfully, &c.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

To JOSEPH L. DIAS, Esq.
Agent for Indian Factories, New York.

Copy of the above sent to Henry Simpson, of Philadelphia, at same time.

NEW YORK, June 18th, 1818.

SIR: Your most esteemed favors of the 8th and 14th ultimo are now before me. Relying in your indulgence, I hope you will forgive my having delayed till now answering them, which has been partly occasioned by a hurry of business, and partly by my absence from this city.

I have placed to your credit the check for \$1628, enclosed in your said favor of the 14th, and I have since charged you for \$122 25 for the cost of a parcel of wampum, say 29,000 white, and 1250 blue, which I have had the honor to forward to you on the 22d May. I was induced to make this purchase in consideration of the price being one dollar lower per 1000 than what I have been obliged to pay before, and the seller promising me before long an equal quantity of blue ones. As to the inquiries contained in your favor of the 8th, I

regret to have to inform you that I have not been able to find out any blankets of the description therein stated, nor do I believe it possible to meet with any. At foot of this you will find copies of some memoranda I took of some parcels which I was offered, and stating the dimensions, weight, prices, and advances. You will find also some memoranda respecting the strouds. The common credit on those articles is six months; but I expect that I could obtain for the cash a discount of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$. I apprehend that blankets of the weight mentioned in your aforesaid favor of the 8th, are very seldom imported in this market, for the dealers of this article, whom I conversed with on the subject, appear to be unacquainted with blankets of that description. In 1813, I purchased, by order of General Mason, and forwarded to some of the factories, some $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 point blankets; but I believe they were of the ordinary sizes and weight, for I remember that I had previously endeavoured in vain to procure such ones as you describe.

I have the honor &c.

J. LOPES DIAS.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

Superintendent U. S. Indian Trade.

The foregoing is a true copy from the original.

W. FITZHUGH.

PHILADELPHIA, 11th May, 1818.

SIR: In reply to your favor of the 8th inst. I beg leave to state that there are no blankets in this market of the precise quality and dimensions as those you ask for. For the particulars of the quality of mine, which are the best in this market, I refer you to my letter to you of the 14th March last, and should be glad to sell them to you. With regard to the strouds, I must also state that mine are the best in this market, and of the highest sterling cost. Of these last, I have only *four* bales which are a consignment, and I must sell them: please make me an offer for them. They are the same as those last sold you, containing the blues and reds; not like those with the scarlets, but much *stouter and better*.

Very respectfully, &c.

H. SIMPSON.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

Superintendent Indian Trade, Georgetown, D. C.

PHILADELPHIA, 14th March, 1818.

SIR: Your favor of the 12th inst. was duly received, and I now have the pleasure to reply thereto.

The three point blankets, of which there are 38 bales, 60 pair in a bale, weighing each pair $6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs, measuring $1\frac{3}{4}$ yards wide and 2 yards long. real *indigo stripes*, dressed downwards with the points, and of the very best quality, and which were originally bought by Messrs. Baring, Brothers, and Co. of London, for cash, on account of their being the same kind in every particular, as the *Montreal blanket*, or N. W. Company blanket, being ordered of that kind. The price $\$4\frac{7\frac{5}{100}}$ per pair, cash. Also 5 bales $2\frac{1}{2}$ points, 60 pair per bale, weighing 5 lbs. per pair, measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards wide, 2 yards long, the same quality, price $3\frac{7\frac{5}{100}}$ per pair. Also 10 bales $3\frac{1}{2}$ points, weighing $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per pair, measure $1\frac{7}{8}$ wide, 60 pair in each bale, $2\frac{1}{8}$ yards long, same quality, $\$6\frac{2\frac{5}{100}}$ per pair. Also 7 bales blue and red strouds, 7 ps. blue, 3 ps. red, each bale as per sample sent, full $\frac{6}{4}$ wide, well filled and milled, cost 4s. sterl. per yard, weight 1 lb. per yadr. Also 2 bales, 8 pieces blue, 2 pieces scarlet, each bale blue; as per sample, of the scarlet no pattern, but cost 5s. 6d. sterl. per yard, each piece 31 a 34 yards, price 90 cents per yard (too low, but must be sold.)

500 dozen butcher knives, as per sample, of light wood handles, at \$1 75 per doz. *very cheap.*

100 dozen red handle scalping knives, a \$2 per doz.

10 pair $\frac{7}{8}$ green saved list cloths, at \$1 75 per yard, (as per sample.)

50 cards beads, as per sample, at \$1 75 per card.

300 lbs. beads, a 90 cents per lb. mostly green, as per sample, but assorted with a few other colors.

10,000 Indian brass bells, a 1 cent per bell.

20 groce Indian awls, a \$1 50 per groce.

100 dozen toilet, pocket, and red covered looking glasses, a \$1 per dozen.

I have purchased the 120 lbs. 3 strand yarn, agreeable to order.

I have given the weight of the blankets and strouds according to actual weight; also the measurement; and can say they are as described from conviction, not mere belief; and that I have no doubt they are of the very kind you name: however, all, or any of these articles I shall be glad to sell you. I name cash for the blankets, because I am ordered to sell them for cash. The strouds are put down also for cash; but if it makes any difference, some time on them will be given. The butcher knives are very good and very low, and I hope will answer.

It will give me great pleasure to execute any orders for you in this city, which I will endeavor to do to your entire satisfaction.

Waiting your reply,

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

H. SIMPSON.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

Superintendent Indian Trade U. S. Georgetown, D. C.

PHILADELPHIA, 28th May, 1818.

SIR: Not being able to see the owner of the point blankets until to-day, has deferred my reply to your favor of the 25th instant until this time, which I regret very much, as he declines selling the blankets at the prices I offered them at in March last. He now asks 25 per cent. more, and will sell them for cash only. Blanket wool has risen very high in England.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
H. SIMPSON.

THOS. L. M'KENNEY, Esq.
Superintendent Indian Trade U. States,
Georgetown, D. C.

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 26th, 1822.

SIR: The Committee of the Senate on Indian Affairs request you to answer, as soon as convenient, the inquiries which will be found on the following page of this letter.

On the part of the Committee,
THOMAS H. BENTON.

Mr. M'KENNEY,
Superintendent of Indian Trade, Georgetown.

Queries addressed to Mr. M'Kenney, Superintendent of Indian Trade.

1. What has been the aggregate quantity of each description of articles purchased by you for the Indian trade, in the year 1820, the aggregate amount given for each aggregate quantity, the place or places where they were bought, the name or names of the sellers, and the amount bought of each?

2. What has been the aggregate quantity of each description of articles received by you from each of the factories in the year 1821, the aggregate amount for which each description of articles sold, the place or places at which they were sold, the names of the purchasers, the nature of the sales (whether public or private,) and the terms of payment, whether for ready money or credit?

INDIAN TRADE OFFICE,
5th February, 1822.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to forward sundry abstracts, in compliance with the request of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate, as contained in your communication of the 26th ult. and which furnish answers to the inquiries which accompanied that communication.

Abstract marked A, shews the aggregate quantity of each description of articles purchased by me for the Indian trade in the year 1820; the aggregate amount given for each aggregate quantity; the place or places were they where bought; the names of the sellers; and the amount bought of each.

Abstracts marked B, C, D, E, F, G, shew, (each abstract containing the receipts and sales from each factory,) what has been the aggregate quantity of each description of articles received by me from each factory, in the year 1821; the aggregate amount for which each description of articles were sold; and the place or places at which they were sold; the names of the purchasers; the nature of the sales, whether public or private; the terms of payment, whether for ready money or on credit. Abstract B embraces the call as it applies to the factory at Prairie Du Chien. C the factory at Fort Confederation, on the Tombeckbe. D the factory on the Arkansas. E Fort Clark, or Osage factory. F Chicago. G Fort Edwards. The Marie Decine factory having been just organized, no returns have been received from it. Nor were any returns received from the factory on Red river, in 1821, owing to delays arising out of the death of the factor. From Green Bay no supplies have been received.

From the Fort Edwards factory sundry articles have been received within the present year, and also from the factory on Red river; and from that at Fort Confederation, embracing an estimate of eighty thousand pounds of deer skins, which were sold just within the present year to Geisse and Korckhauss of Philadelphia. For the nature of this sale see copy of agreement, marked B H.

It may be proper to remark that, as the prices of this sale are lower than those realized at the public auction in this town, that the skins sold under the contract, are *southern* skins, and are taken, as the contract shews, at a saving of freight and commissions, &c. and the expenses which would have occurred, beside the risk and damage arising out of their voyage here. The letter from New Orleans, marked B I, will shew the prices of deer skins in that market as reported by my agents there. Letters B No. 1, and B No. 2, will shew the correspondence with Geisse and Korckhauss leading to this sale; and letter B No. 3 contains an offer for the skins by another house in Philadelphia.

To save trouble to the committee, I have added a *general abstract*, which embodies the kinds and amounts of the skins sold, and the total amount received for them.

I have the honor to be, sir,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. L. M'KENNEY, S. I. T.

The Hon. THOMAS H. BENTON.

AULETTES.

Amount. Hs.

0

94 00

\$

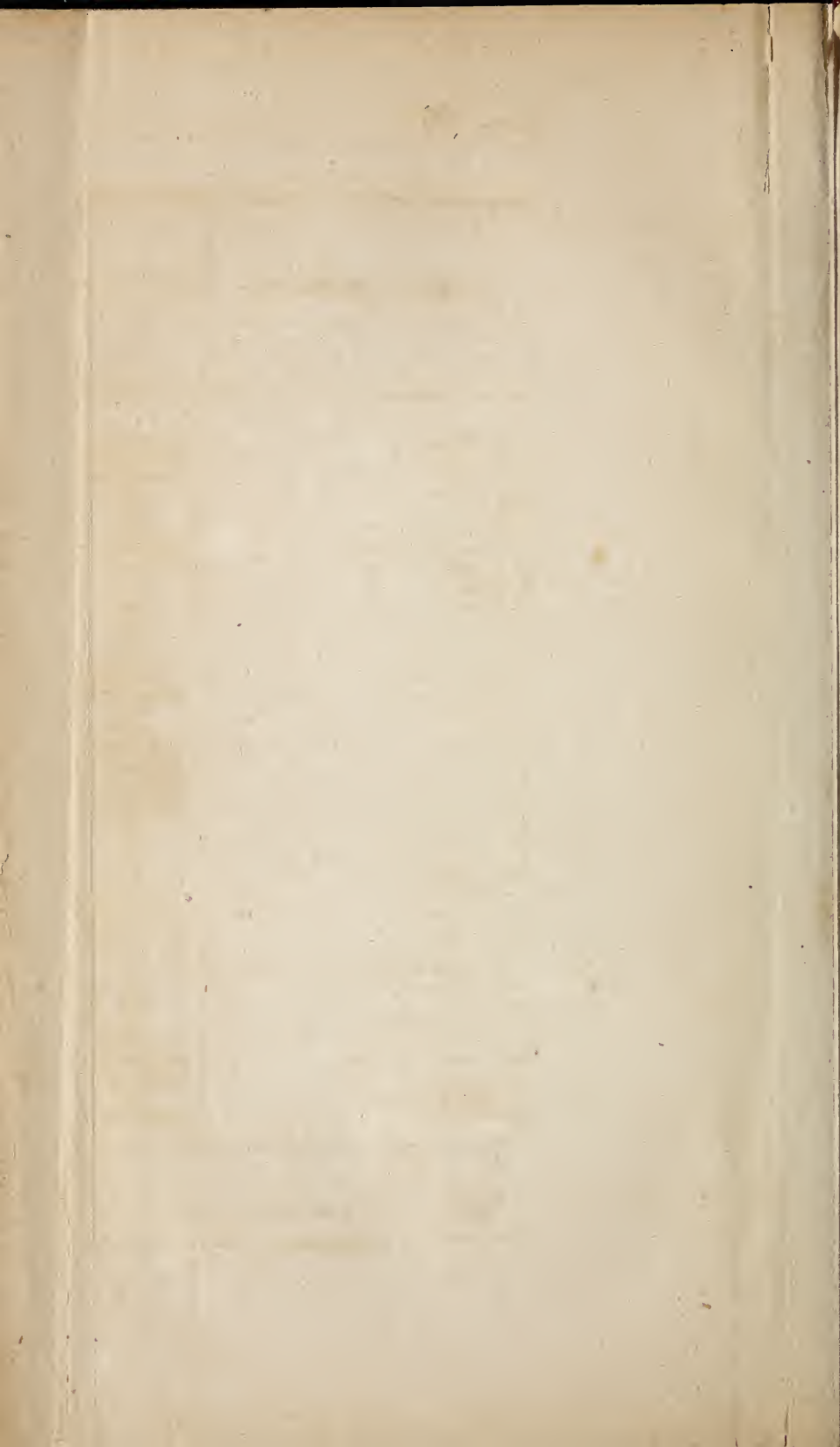
05

\$ Cts.

94 00

STATEMENT A—Continued.

NAMES OF THE SELLERS.	WHERE BOUGHT.	THREAD.		JEWEL HARPS.		SPOBS.		GUN LOCKS.		SHOT.		COMBS.		LENS.		DRAWING KNIVES.		SPADES.		CARDS.		WEAVER'S SLATS.		PLUMES.		POCKET KNIVES.		SAWS.		SPAULETTES.		NAILS.		TRINKET PANS.		HORSE AND COW BELLS.		RED COMBS.		SHOT BELTS AND POWDER FLASKS.				
		Hrs.	Amount.	Groce.	Amount.	Pair.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Hrs.	Amount.	Doz.	Amount.	Pieces	Amount.	Doz.	Amount.	Doz.	Amount.	Dozen pair.	Amount.	Reeds.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Pair.	Amount.	Hrs.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Doz.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			
Charles Dean	Georgetown																																											
Henry Simpson	Philadelphia																																											
David English	Georgetown																																											
Walter Gady	do																																											
W. L. Ogden	do																																											
Charles Hunt and Co.	do																																											
A. C. Cazenove and Co.	Alexandria																																											
G. W. Haller	Georgetown																																											
R. Tonge	do																																											
W. Thomson	do																																											
John Lutz	do																																											
John D. Clarke	do																																											
Edward Davis	do																																											
E. Dupont and Co.	Wilmington, D.																																											
J. and T. Corcoran	Georgetown																																											
A. Jencherez	do																																											
D. Clagett	do																																											
H. Derringer	Philadelphia																																											
E. Peet	Georgetown																																											
H. C. Neilson	Baltimore																																											
William Mackey	Georgetown																																											
Z. C. Chesley	do																																											
Thomas C. Hodges	do																																											
B. Riggs	do																																											
William McKenney	do																																											
C. A. Burnett	do																																											
Pricc and Morgan	Philadelphia																																											
Truman Beck	Georgetown																																											
Thomas C. Wright	do	79	117 10	8	30 16	46	35 80	78	129 42	1,276	105 00	18	37 42	20	50 00	12	63 87	2	26 00	75	610 43	100,100	210 00	24	35 04	114	26 41	6	42 60	5	94 00	207	20 95	12	9 10	361	406 86	4	12 00	24	38 00			
Wharton and Grinage	do					12	13 50																																					
Samuel McKenney	do																																											
John Little	do																																											
Hazeland Linticum	do																																											
A. C. Zabruskie	New York																																											
Montgomery and Stinger	New Orleans																																											
George Suttan	Pittsburg																																											
Ordnance Department	do																																											
John D. Scott	Georgetown																																											
The aggregate quantity and aggregate cost of each description		79	117 10	8	30 16	58	49 30	78	129 42	1,276	105 00	18	37 42	20	50 00	124	67 62	2	26 00	75	610 42	100,100	210 00	24	35 04	162	51 41	6	42 60	5	94 00	207	20 95	12	9 10	361	406 86	4	12 00	24	38 00			



STATEMENT A—Continued.

NAMES OF THE SELLERS.	WHERE BOUGHT.	CHINA ART WARE.		MEDICINE.		FILLS.		SAD IRONS.		CHISELS.		FILES.		LOCKS.		PLANE IRONS.		WAMPUM.		ACUAS.		COFFEE.		LEAD.		SOAP.		TOBACCO.		IRON.		STEEL.		NAIL RODS.		WINDOW GLASS.		TEA.		PEPPER.		AGGREGATE AMOUNT BUYERS OF EACH
		Crate.	Amount.	Boxes.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Grains.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Bundles.	Amount.	Boxes.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.	Lbs.	Amount.			
Charles Dean	Georgetown																																								45 75	
Henry Simpson	Philadelphia																																								116 00	
David English	Georgetown																																								123 75	
Walter Gody	do																																								80 70	
W. L. Ogden	do																																								340 00	
Charles Hunt and Co.	do																																								167 40	
A. C. Cazenove and Co.	Alexandria																																								796 95	
G. W. Haller	Georgetown																																								120 00	
R. Tonge	do																																								63 00	
W. Thomann	do																																								188 90	
John Lutz	do																																								340 00	
John D. Clarke	do																																								55 35	
Edward Davis	do																																								284 00	
E. Dupont and Co.	Whilmington, D.																																								165 00	
J. and T. Corcoran	Georgetown																																								1,091 38	
A. Joncherez	do																																								29 25	
B. Clagett	do																																								212 50	
H. Derringer	Philadelphia																																								2,079 37	
E. Pect	Georgetown																																								177 96	
H. C. Nelson	Baltimore																																								500 00	
William Mackey	Georgetown																																								65 80	
Z. C. Chesley	do																																								74 20	
Thomas C. Hodges	do																																								161 87	
R. Riggs	do																																								467 55	
William McKenny	do																																								37 00	
C. A. Burnett	do																																								212 45	
Price and Morgan	Philadelphia																																								1,883 21	
Truman Beck	Georgetown																																								241 00	
Thomas C. Wright	do																																								10,016 50	
Wharton and Grinage	do																																								548 66	
Samuel McKenny	do	1	59 38																																						39 38	
John Little	do			1	57 95																																				57 95	
Hazel and Linthicum	do					108	30 37	53	5 30	12	5 00	6	2 70	12	4 50	12	4 00	600,000	2,400 00	5,068	557 48	3,265	979 50	306	50 60	201	26 44	1,536	230 10	500	57 50	47	11 75	1	24 00	1	9 00					82 08
A. C. Zahnske	New York																																								400 00	
Montgomery and Stinger	New Orleans																																								1,336 98	
George Suttan	Pittsburg																																								839 69	
Ordnance Department	do																																								512 50	
John D. Scott	Georgetown																																									127 17
The aggregate quantity and aggregate cost of each description		1	59 38	1	57 95	108	30 37	53	5 30	12	5 00	6	2 70	12	4 50	12	4 00	600,000	2,400 00	3,118	570 29	3,315	994 87	506	50 60	201	26 44	1,536	230 10	500	57 50	47	11 75	4	24 00	1	9 00	83	85 00	65	15 97	25,799 41



B.

STATEMENT, shewing the aggregate quantity of each description of Articles received by Thomas L. McKenney, Superintendent of Indian Trade, from the Prairie du Chien Factory, in the year 1821; the aggregate amount for which each description of Articles were sold, the place or places at which they were sold, the names of the purchasers, the nature of the sales, and terms of payment.

NAMES OF THE PURCHASERS.	MUSKRAT SKINS.		DEER SKINS.		RACCOON SKINS.		WOLF, FOX, AND CAT SKINS.		LEAD.		MATS.		BEAVER.		OTTER SKINS.		WIL. & SKINS.		MARTIN SKINS.		RABBIT SKINS.		FISHER'S SKINS.		GROUND HOG SKINS.		DEAR SKINS.		CUB SKINS.		HOW SOLD.	WHERE SOLD.	TERMS OF SALE.
	No.	Amount.	lbs.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	pond.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			
B. Ingels	1,000	300 00	25	5 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Private	St. Louis	Cash
Baue and Browne	1,000	310 00	25	5 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.	
Uzell and Kirkpatrick	500	155 00	42	8 40	600	225 00	80	30 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.	
Sold by J. Kennerly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,561	928 05	31	24 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
J. Amos	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
T. L. Martin	300	102 00	-	-	100	81 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Hoyer	100	24 00	-	-	150	60 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	79 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
D. Wright	100	57 00	-	-	100	50 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	169 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Gilbert	-	-	-	-	50	40 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Rickebough	-	-	-	-	50	39 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Steiner	-	-	-	-	60	48 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Pearson	300	72 00	-	-	178	16 38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Williams	200	106 00	-	-	150	32 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	76 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Rouseup	110	34 10	-	-	150	30 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
B. Gilpin	200	66 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
T. Beck	100	25 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Brown	100	28 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	140	8 75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
S. W. Handy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	147 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Geise and Korkhaus	-	-	2,937	1,128 40	-	-	90	36 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	500 00	135	31 10	15	11 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Corcoran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	55 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Astor	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	41 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Windsor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.
Davis	-	-	87	13 05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	102 00	-	-	do.	do.	do.	
Fricke	-	-	345	75 46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	66 00	-	-	do.	do.	do.		
Halsey	-	-	2,667	619 69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.	
Hatersly	-	-	133	17 29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do.	do.	do.	
Aggregate quantity of each description	4,010	-	6,261	-	1,738	-	270	-	18,561	-	31	-	128	-	175	-	135	-	15	-	140	-	77	-	19	-	50	-	17	-			
Aggregate amount of each description	-	1,279 10	-	1,872 29	-	743 38	-	107 64	-	928 05	-	24 80	-	472 45	-	555 00	-	31 10	-	11 40	-	8 75	-	83 75	-	10 45	-	168 00	-	21 25			

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Main body of the page containing several lines of extremely faint, illegible text. The text is too light to be read accurately but appears to be organized into paragraphs or sections.

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.

Faint header text	Faint header text
Faint text in first row	Faint text in first row
Faint text in second row	Faint text in second row
Faint text in third row	Faint text in third row

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C.

STATEMENT, showing the aggregate quantity of each description of articles received by Thomas L. McKenney, from the Choctaw Factory, in the year 1821, the aggregate amount for which each description of articles were sold, the place or places at which they were sold, the names of the purchasers, the nature of the sales and the terms of payment.

NAMES OF PURCHASERS.	Deer skins.		Bees' Wax.		Tallow.		Otter Skins.		Beaver.		Fox and Cat Skins.		How Sold.	Where Sold.	Terms of Sale.
	Pounds.	Amount.	Pounds.	Amount.	Pounds.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Pounds.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
Geisse & Korkhauss - - - -	69,411	11,801 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Private - -	New York -	At three and five months.
M'Clintock & Hawthorn - - - -	-	-	953	333 73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	do	do	Cash
Andrew Morris - - - -	-	-	-	-	94	10 77	-	-	-	-	-	-	do	do	do
Dilworth & Vorhees - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	100 00	-	-	-	-	do	do	do
Halsey & Ebberts - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	641	718 87	984	121 07	do	do	do
M'Clintock & Hawthorn - - - -	-	-	355	127 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Geisse & Korkhauss - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	168	336 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
James Burr - - - -	671	268 40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dilworth & Vorhees - - - -	23,806	4,393 89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aggregate quantity of each description - -	95,888	-	1,308	-	94	-	218	-	641	-	984	-	-	-	-
Aggregate amount of each description - -	-	16,163 69	-	461 53	-	10 77	-	436 00	-	718 87	-	121 07	-	-	-

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or introductory paragraph.

Main body of faint, illegible text, appearing to be several lines of a letter or document.

Bottom section of faint, illegible text, possibly a signature block or concluding remarks.

11

D.

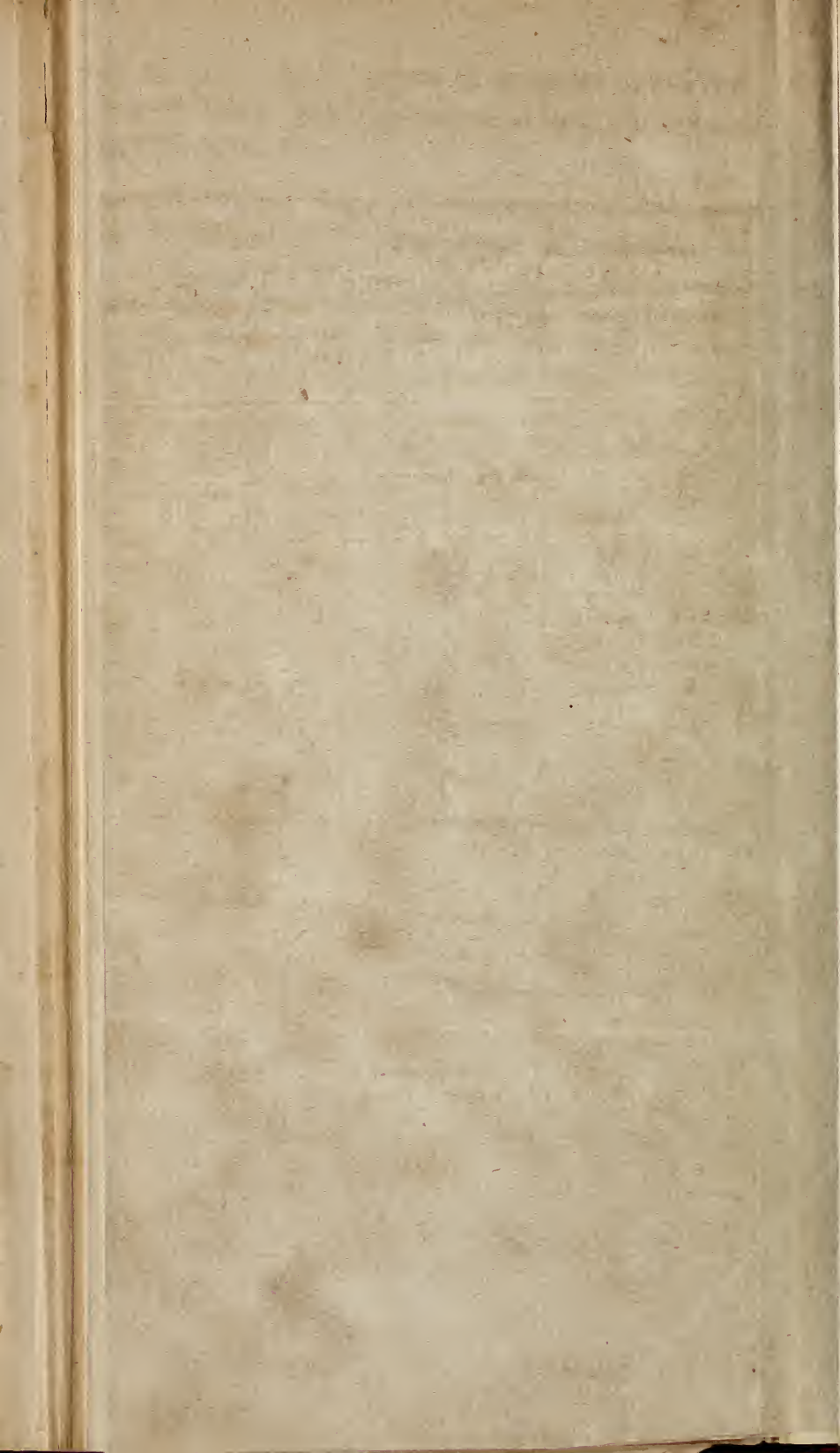
ST rec by
of es rkansas
s of the

	Skins	
	No.	Amo of Sale.
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		months.
		3.
	80	240
	120	362
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	20	60
	70	190
	30	60
	26	62
	-	-
	346	-
	-	974 9

D.

STATEMENT, shewing the aggregate quantity of each description of Articles received by Thomas L. McKenney, Superintendent Indian Trade, from the Arkansas Factory, in the year 1821; the aggregate amount for which each description of articles were sold; the place or places at which they were sold; the names of the purchasers; the nature of the sales, and the terms of payment.

Names of the Purchasers.	Deer Skins.		Bear Oil.		Raccoon Skins.		Beaver.		Bear Skins.		Cub Skins.		Wolf, Fox, and Cat Skins.		How Sold.	Where Sold.	Terms of Sale.
	Pounds.	Amount.	Gallons.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Pounds.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.			
Sold by Price and Morgan - - - -	714	192 78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Auction	Philadelphia	Cash
Prior and Pascal - - - - -	-	-	36	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Private	New Orleans	Cash
Geisse and Korckhauss - - - -	21,551	4,936 78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	At 3 and 5 months.
Joel Brown - - - - -	-	-	-	-	50	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Auction	George Town	At 90 days.
— Pearson - - - - -	-	-	-	-	200	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
— Rickenbough - - - - -	-	-	-	-	50	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
T. C. Wright - - - - -	-	-	-	-	416	61 40	-	-	80	240	-	-	194	38 80	Do.	Do.	Do.
R Kirby & Co. - - - - -	-	-	-	-	150	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
G. Davis - - - - -	-	-	-	-	100	15	-	-	120	362	64	57 60	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
S. W. Handy - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	143 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
B Gilpin - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	112 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
D. Wright - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	108	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
R Kirby & Co. - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	94 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
T. L. Martin - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	28 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
— Laurence - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	60	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
R Windsor - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	190 50	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
J. Lutz - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	60	26	16 90	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
W. L. Ogden - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	62 40	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
H. Pyle - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82	21 32	Do.	Do.	Do.
Aggregate quantity of each description -	22,265	-	36	-	966	-	159	-	346	-	90	-	276	-			
Aggregate amount of each description -	-	5,129 56	-	45	-	211 40	-	487 30	-	974 90	-	74 50	-	60 12			



Sed by 'actory,
sold; thrs; the

	Otte	
nt.	Number	of sale.
E	-	
-	-	days
E	-)
-	-)
R	-)
J	-)
D	-)
T	-)
R60	-)
-	-)
C05	-)
-	53)
E	-)
A	53	
A65	-	

E.

STATEMENT showing the aggregate quantity of each description of articles received by T. L. McKenney, Superintendent of Indian Trade, from the Osage Factory, in the year 1821; the aggregate amount for which each description of articles were sold; the place or places at which they were sold; the names of the purchasers; the nature of the sales; and the terms of payment.

Names of Purchasers.	Beaver.		Raccoon Skins.		Muskrats.		Bear Skins.		Cub Skins.		Otter Skins.		Wolf, Fox, and Cat Skins.		Deer Skins.		How sold.	Where sold.	Terms of sale.
	Pounds.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Pounds.	Amount.			
B. Ingels - - - -	49	148 50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Private sale	St. Louis	Cash
— Jackson - - - -	-	-	50	80 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Auction	Georgetown	At ninety days
B. Gilpin - - - -	-	-	50	28 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
— Pearson - - - -	-	-	100	51 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
R. Kirby & Co. - -	64	83 20	63	6 93	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
J. T. Wilbar - - -	-	-	-	-	26	7 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
D. Wright - - - -	37	114 70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
T. L. Martin - - -	30	90 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
R. Windsor - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	154 50	10	3 60	-	-	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
— Hattersly - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	40 00	-	-	-	-	20	5 40	394	122 14	Do.	Do.	Do.
G. Davis - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	28 03	-	-	9	1 80	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
— Corcoran - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53	163 80	-	-	-	-	Do.	Do.	Do.
— Frick - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	439	144 87	Do.	Do.	Do.
Halsey & Ehberts -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	835	342 35	Do.	Do.	Do.
Aggregate quantity of each descrip'n	180	-	263	-	26	-	80	-	43	-	55	-	29	-	1,668	-			
Aggregate amount of each descrip'n	-	436 40	-	115 93	-	7 80	-	194 50	-	31 65	-	163 80	-	7 20	-	609 36			

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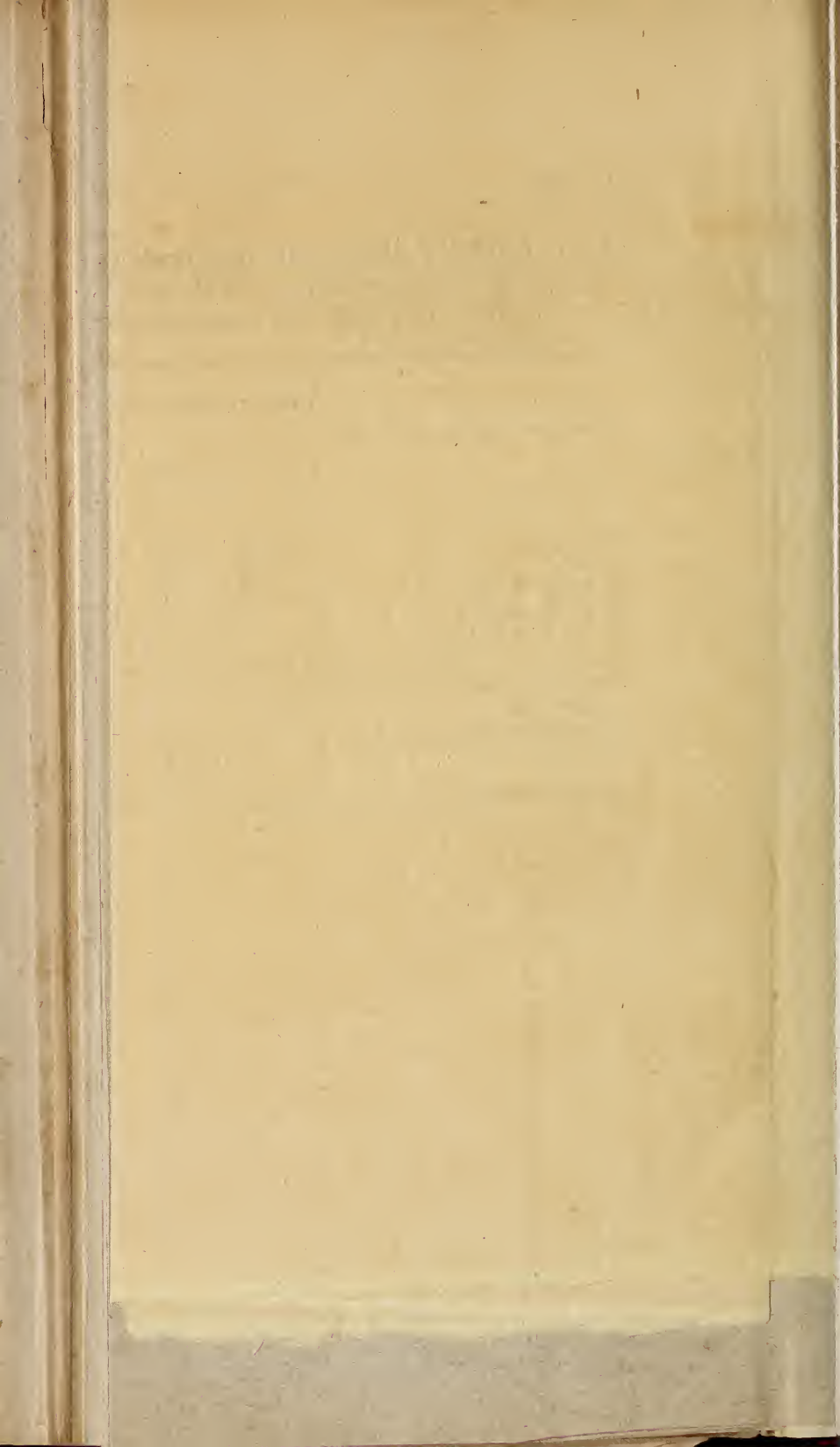
1897

*L. M'Kenney, Superintendent of Indian Trade,
tion of articles was sold; the place or places at
f payment.*

WHERE SOLD.	TERMS OF SALE.
Georgetown	At ninety days

STATEMENT showing the aggregate quantity of each description of articles received by T. L. McKenney, Superintendent of Indian Trade, from the Chicago Factory, in the year 1824; the aggregate amount for which each description of articles was sold; the place or places at which they were sold; the names of the purchasers; the nature of the sales, and the terms of payment.

NAMES OF THE PURCHASERS.	Raccoon Skins.		Muskrat Skins.		Otter Skins.		Mink Skins.		HOW SOLD.	WHERE SOLD.	TERMS OF SALE.
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.			
Ronscull - - - -	100	88 00							Auction	Georgetown	At ninety days
Steiner - - - -	57	50 16						..			
R. Kirby & Co. - - -	128	17 28						..			
T. C. Wright - - -			303	102 86				..			
Halsey and Ebberts - -					16	68 80	18	2 88			
Aggregate quantity of each description - - -	285		303		16		18				
Aggregate amount of each description - - -		155 44		102 86		68 80		2 88			



STATEMENT shewing the aggregate amount of each description of articles received by Thomas L. M^r Kenney, Superintendent of Indian trade, from the Fort Edwards factory, in the year 1821; the aggregate amount for which each description of articles were sold; the place or places at which they were sold; the nature of the sale, and the terms of payment.

	BEES' WAX.		HOW SOLD.	WHERE SOLD.	TERMS OF SALE.
	LBS.	AMOUNT.			
Sold by J. Kennerly, purchaser not known	220	\$44 00	Private sale.	St. Louis.	Cash.

B. I.

*Memorandum of sundry cash disbursements made by M^c Coy & Scallan,
for U. S. Indian Department.*

1821.			
Oct. 2,	Paid M. Lyon's draft favor Wm. Montgomery, dated August 18th, 1821, for freight of goods from White River to Spadic Bayou,	- -	144 00
6,	Paid freight of 9 boxes rifles to Natchez	- -	15 75
	Paid do. do. from Philadelphia,	- -	12 55
Nov. 10,	Paid sundry drayages and labor on goods per schooner Emily	- - - -	17 68
13,	Paid freight of goods per Emily to White River for Spadic Bayou	- - - -	126 20
	Paid freight of sundry goods per schooner Emily from Georgetown and Alexandria	- -	251 17
	Paid for 9,700 pounds lead at $6\frac{7}{8}$ cents, shipped to Mobile, for old fort Confederation	- -	666 87
	Paid for twenty barrels sugar, weighing 5,439 pounds, at nine cents, shipped to Mobile for old fort Confederation	- -	489 51
	Paid freight on sundry goods per Emily to Nat- chez for emigrant Choctaws	- -	88 83
			\$ 1,812 56

NEW ORLEANS, *November 22, 1821.*

SIR: Referring to ours of the 17th instant, we have to observe we are lucky enough to meet a mercantile house who have cashed the annexed draft on you, at twenty days sight, for \$1,800, of this day's date. We annex a memorandum of sundry cash expenditures made by us for your department, which this draft is intended to meet part of, and we request it will find due honor.

In making the purchase for old fort Confederation we could find but one vender who would take a draft on Washington. That was for the coffee, which draft was forwarded some time since. We are anxious to receive a statement of the value of the several goods forwarded from Georgetown, Alexandria, and Philadelphia, in order to complete our quarterly account on the 31st December next, in which your department will be credited with the amount of this draft.

You will observe the annexed memorandum does not include commissions, neither does it include sundry disbursements for drayage and labor, storage, &c. not yet posted with us.

Respectfully your obedient servants,
M^cCOY & SCALLAN,
Agents Indian Factori

THOS. L. M^cKENNEY, Esq.
Superintendent Indian Trade.

NEW ORLEANS, *November 24, 1821.*

SIR: The foregoing is a copy of a letter of advice accompanying a set of drafts made by us on you, in favor of Messrs. Vincent, Nolte & Co. at twenty days sight, for \$1,800. From a wish to serve us, these gentlemen took the draft at four per cent. discount, for which we have taken their voucher. Drafts on New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, are selling at a discount of one and a half to two per cent. but no remittances being made to Washington, added to causes before referred to, make drafts on government authorities at Washington unsaleable. Messrs. Vincent, Nolte & Co. have forwarded the draft for collection, and have promised, if the nett charges attending it, does not amount to four per cent. (including the present discount on ordinary drafts) they will refund the difference.

In a conversation which the writer had yesterday with General Jesup, (quartermaster general) he was informed that the quartermaster's department here was supplied with funds by an arrangement which the General had made with the Treasury Department, who had instructed the collector here on the subject, from whom the writer understands supplies are had on proper vouchers.

We merely present this subject, as it may perhaps induce you to make a similar arrangement. We are at all times ready to give ample security for means placed within our control.

The steam boat Beaver has just arrived, and will leave for Natchitoches in eight or ten days; by her the articles for Sulphur Fork will be shipped.

We request leave to annex the price of a few articles in the fur line, every thing in that way is much in demand. The present quotation is merely nominal, as there is none in market, but we have no doubt the highest quotation might be obtained. We send this, that, by comparing it with the northern prices you might find it advisable to order sales to be made here on the arrival of any from the factories above.

Most respectfully, your obedient servants,
M'COY & SCALLAN,
Agents Indian Factories.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.
Superintendent Indian Trade, Georgetown.

Shaved deer skins	-	-	-	25	a	30 cents per pound
In hair do.	-	-	-	22	27	do
Well-furred beaver	-	-	-	275	350	do
Otters skins	-	-	-	250	350	per piece.
Muskrats	-	-	-	18	24	do
Bear skins	-	-	-	100	250	do

B. H.

It is this day, the 2d day of January, 1822, agreed between Thomas L. M'Kenney, Superintendent Indian trade, and Messrs. Geisse and Korckhauss of Philadelphia, that, for all the peltries which may be at Mobile and Orleans, between this date and the 1st day of April, next, the aforesaid Geisse and Korckhauss, are to receive and settle for, at the following rates, viz: for all merchantable shaved skins, they agree to pay thirty and an half cents per lb.; for all merchantable red skins, twenty-five and an half cents; and for all grey and blue twenty and an half cents per lb.; and for the next grade of quality two thirds of the above prices; and for the next grade half of the the above prices.

For the deer skins now on hand at this office, from the fort Edwards factory, they agree to pay for shaved skins, thirty-five cents per lb.; for red, thirty cents; and for grey and blue, twenty-five cents; two thirds of the above prices for the first grade of unmerchantable, and half price of the second grade of unmerchantable. This lot of skins from fort Edwards, it is agreed, shall go on to Philadelphia, and be there assorted and weighed, and it is agreed that an agent shall be provided there, by any person Thomas L. M'Kenney may select, and that agent shall be sworn to do justice in selecting and sorting and weighing the said skins, according to the intent and meaning of the parties, and at the expense of the said Geisse and Korckhauss.

It is furthermore agreed, between the aforesaid T. L. M'Kenney, Superintendent Indian trade, and Geisse and Korckhauss, that the skins at, and which may arrive as stated, at New Orleans and Mobile, shall be received at those places free of expense to the said Thomas L. M'Kenney, Superintendent Indian trade, any further than that shall embrace pay and compensation to his the said M'Kenney's agent, for assorting, weighing, and delivering; and, moreover, that should said skins have left Mobile and New Orleans before the said Geisse and Korckhauss shall reach there, or Thomas L. M'Kenney's letter directing them to be retained and delivered as aforesaid, then the said skins are to be received in whatever port they may arrive, at the risque and cost of the said Geisse and Korckhauss, they paying freight and all other charges for the same.

GEISSE & KORCKHAUSS.
THOMAS L. M'KENNEY,
Superintendent Indian Trade.

Attest.

JERE. W. BRONAUGH.

B. No. 1.

PHILADELPHIA, *November 24, 1821.*

RESPECTED SIR: Your esteemed favor of the 21st instant, is before us, and we perceive that you have written to your different agents in order to ascertain the value of those kind of deer skins. We should be glad to become the purchasers, but at the same time we should wish to save the coasting freight, insurance, and damage

done to the skins in these small coasting vessels. If (on the receipt of your offers) you will have the goodness to fix your lowest price for each kind of skins which you may have between this, and the first day of April next, deliverable at New Orleans and Mobile, then we shall be able to say whether we can afford to give such prices or not. We are willing to give as much as any person who will take the risk of the fall or rise of the market between now and April; for the performance of our engagements, we are willing to give you satisfactory security. At foot we quote the prices of deer skins now in this market.

We remain, very respectfully,

Your most obedient and humble servants,

GEISSE & KORCKHAUSS.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

Superintendent Indian Trade, Georgetown, D. C.

Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana skins—shaved 33 to 35 cents, red 24 to 27 cents, grey and blue 22 to 24. Southern deer skins, shaved, 25 to 28, red 22 to 24 cents, grey and blue 18 to 21 cents pr. lb.

B. No. 2.

PHILADELPHIA, *December 20, 1821.*

RESPECTED SIR: Your favor of the 17th inst. is before us, in answer to which we beg leave to reply, that we shall be glad to become the purchasers of the mentioned deer skins at their full and fair value, and we are willing to give as much as any person in the states. We paid you last year for those skins in Orleans, for shaved 25 cts. for red 22 cents, and for grey and blue 18 cents per pound, and half price for all kinds of unmerchantable skins; on these skins we have lost upwards of two thousand dollars; this was occasioned by the worms, but we are still liable to the same risk. There has no alteration taken place in Europe respecting the prices, since last year, that will warrant to give prices as those you demand. You are no doubt aware, that the skins at your last sale would not have brought those extravagant prices, if it had not been for our bidding them up so high. We will give you for those skins from Fort Edwards factory, for the shaved 35 cents, for the red 30 cents, and for grey and blue 25 cents per pound, and half price for damaged and unmerchantable skins. For those southern skins from or at Mobile and New-Orleans, we will pay you for the shaved skins 30 cents, for the red 25 cents, and for the grey and blue 20 cents per pound, and for all damaged and unmerchantable skins half price. The prices which we offer, are, in our opinion, considerable above the present market prices, and more than we really intended to give. We refer to the prices current from our different seaports, respecting the prices. If any skins should have been shipped in the mean time from Orleans

or Mobile, we are willing to pay freight for the same, and are satisfied with the credit you offer.

We remain, very respectfully,
your obedient servants,

GEISSE & KORCKHAUSS.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

Superintendent of Indian Trade, Georgetown, D. C.

B. No. 3.

PHILADELPHIA, *November 25, 1821.*

SIR: Your favor of November 21 has been duly received, and in answer, we offer you the following prices for deer skins, viz.

For shaved deer skins, sound quality, per pound	-	27	cents
summer, or red skins	do.	-	23
fall or winter	do.	do.	18

Damaged skins, half price for each kind, to be delivered at Mobile, and to be paid for by a draft on us in this city, at thirty days sight, after delivery, security to be given by us to comply with the above agreement, and to take all the deer skins you can deliver at Mobile; they being of the quality and prices as above mentioned, until the 1st of April, 1822. If you should deliver any of them in Baltimore, New York, or Philadelphia, we are willing to give you a half cent more per pound for each of the different qualities.

We remain yours, respectfully,

R. & J. PHILLIPS.

N. B. Should the above prices meet your approbation, should wish to be informed as early as possible, as one of the firm might be at Mobile to receive them.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

in the year 1821, and the aggregate

t.	BEES WAX.		TALLOW.		TOTAL AMOUNT.
	Pound.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.	
25	-	-	-	-	6,317 41
	1,308	461 53	94	10 77	18,211 93
50	-	-	-	-	6,982 78
65	-	-	-	-	1,566 64
	-	-	-	-	329 98
	220	44 00	-	-	44 00
	1,528	-	94	-	
40	-	505 53	-	10 77	33,452 74

GENERAL ABSTRACT, shewing the aggregate quantity of each description of Articles received from each of the Factories, by the Superintendent of Indian Trade, in the year 1821, and the aggregate amount for which each description of Articles were sold, and the total amount sold.

FROM WHAT FACTORY RECEIVED.	BEAR'S OIL.		MUSKRAT SKINS.		BEER SKINS.		RACON.		WOLF, FOX, AND CAT SKINS.		LEAD.		MATS.		BLAYLR.		UTTER.		MINE.		MARTIN.		RABBIT.		FISHER.		GROUND HOG.		DEAR.		CUB.		BEAR WAX.		TALLOW.		TOTAL AMOUNT	
	Galls.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.	Pound.	Amount.				
B. Prairie du Chien - - -	-	-	4,010	1,379 10	6,261	1,872 29	1,738	743 38	270	107 64	18,561	928 05	31	2480	128	472 45	175	555 00	135	31 10	15	11 40	140	8 75	77	83 75	19	10 43	50	168 00	17	21 28	-	-	-	-	6,317 41	
C. Choctaw - - - - -	-	-	-	-	95,888	16,463 69	-	-	984	121 07	-	-	-	-	641	718 87	218	456 00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,508	461 53	94	10 77	18,211 93
D. Arkansas - - - - -	36	45 00	-	-	22,265	5,129 56	966	211 40	276	60 12	-	-	-	-	159	487 30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	346	974 90	90	74 30	-	-	-	-	6,982 78	
E. Osage - - - - -	-	-	26	7 80	1,168	609 36	263	115 93	29	7 20	-	-	-	-	180	456 40	53	163 80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	194 50	43	31 50	-	-	-	-	1,566 64	
F. Chicago - - - - -	-	-	303	102 86	-	-	285	155 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	68 80	18	2 88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	329 98	
G. Fort Edwards - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	220	44 00	-	-	-	-	44 00
Quantity - - - - -	36	-	4,339	-	124,082	-	3,232	-	1,559	-	18,561	-	31	-	1,108	-	462	-	153	-	15	-	140	-	77	-	19	-	476	-	150	-	1,528	-	94	-	33,452 74	
Amount - - - - -	-	45 00	-	1,389 76	-	24,074 90	-	1,226 15	-	296 03	-	928 05	-	2480	-	2,115 02	-	1,223 60	-	33 98	-	11 40	-	8 75	-	83 75	-	10 45	-	1,337 40	-	127 40	-	505 53	-	10 77	-	33,452 74

Ⓜ If the sale made under the contract with Grisse and Kurckhaus, of the 2d day of January, 1822, be included, of 80,000 pounds deer skins, amounting to about \$20,000; the amount will stand at \$53,452 74.

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OFFICE INDIAN TRADE, *February 27, 1822.*

The Hon. HENRY JOHNSON,

Chairman of the Committee of the Senate on Indian Affairs.

SIR: I have had the honor of receiving your communication of the 25th inst. informing me of the decision of the Senate to print the documents transmitted by me to the Committee, also the statements of the gentlemen who were examined before the Committee in relation to Indian Affairs, and proposing that, if I had any other papers in relation to the subject which I would wish printed, that I prepare and transmit them to you as early as possible.

On looking over the statements of Messrs. Biddle, O'Fallon, and Crooks, I have considered it might be well to submit a few brief remarks on some parts of the several statements made by them, with which, I propose to accompany sundry letters and extracts of letters, more fully to illustrate the subject-matter of those statements. I may perhaps travel over parts of some of the grounds which have been explored in my other communications; but as the following remarks are intended to apply especially to the statements of those gentlemen, I hope I may be excused for such repetition.

I will proceed in the order in which the statements are numbered, beginning with Major Biddle's, No. 1.

Remarks on Major Biddle's answer to the Fifth Question.

Major Biddle seems to think that the advance on the cost of an article should be confined to the cost of its transportation. A little additional knowledge of the nature of a distant and wilderness trade, embracing damage and loss, and erection and repairs of factory buildings, (as it necessarily must) would require some other calculations beside the mere cost of transportation, if the capital is to be preserved. The soldiers have done but a very small part of the work in erecting factories, &c. and when they did labor, they were paid for it out of the factory funds.

Remarks on his answer to the Sixth Question.

The accompanying extract of my letters to Mr. Johnson, of Prairie du Chien, marked A. No. 1, will explain why merchandise is sometimes sent from the factories to the Indians. Further remarks upon this practice are deemed unnecessary.

Remarks on his answer to the Tenth Question.

It has been considered proper always, when presents were to be made to Indians in the vicinity of the factories, that a service would be rendered by the government agent to another branch of the go-

vernment operations for him to take, *for that purpose*, the unsaleable articles of the United States' factory; which, under any circumstances, must, in the course of time, and in any mercantile establishment accumulate in a greater or less degree. The sense of the governor of the Michigan territory has been very recently expressed on this subject by his agreement to receive, for the purposes of his agency, whatever articles are in the Green Bay and Chicago factories that should not be considered suitable for a trade at the St. Peters. The presumption is, it never entered into the governor's conceptions of duty to *confine* his operations to his own agency, and expend the public money in trade with the agents of the American Fur Company, or any other agency, when, by an interchange of intercourse with another branch of the government designs, he could promote its prosperity, without at all infringing upon the interests of his own charge.

Remarks on his answer to the eleventh question.

Reasons will be found in the extracts of letters in illustration of Mr. Crook's statement for the decline of the business of the Chicago and Green Bay factories, as also a reply to the reputed inattention to the representations said to have been made by Mr. Varnum.

Although the government operations at Green Bay and Chicago were suspended by the artifice of individuals, (as will be more fully shewn in the remarks I have to make on parts of Mr. Crook's statement,) yet it cannot be questioned that the mere presence of the factories has been serviceable to the Indians, by acting as guards, at least indirectly, in regulating the prices of goods and furs. The Indians, it is admitted, are good judges of the articles in which they deal, and, generally when they are permitted to be sober, they can detect attempts to practise frauds upon them. The traders knowing this, (however, few of the Indians are ever permitted to trade without a previous preparation in the way of liquor,) would not be so apt to demand exorbitant prices, when the Indians could have the option to give them, or go to the factories. This may be illustrated by the fact, as reported to this office by Matthew Irwin that previous to the establishment of the Green Bay factory, as much as one dollar and fifty cents had been demanded by the traders of the Indians, and received, for a brass thimble, and eighteen dollars for one pound of tobacco!

Remarks on his answer to the Twelfth Question.

The competition and advantages which Major Biddle supposed would result to the Indians from it, are certainly illusory. *Compacts*, and not competition, would be the consequence, provided the power of the American Fur Company, as it is denominated, would permit it.

Remarks on parts of his answer to the fourteenth question.

Suppose it were admitted that the factory prices are actually higher than the prices asked for similar articles by the traders; would this prove that the Indians were advantaged by it? Is it not easy to ask a dollar for an article which is known, in a regular trade, to be worth two dollars, and yet for a deception to be practised by so qualifying the articles received for it, especially from drunken Indians, as to secure, instead of one dollar or two dollars, four or five? and thus impoverish men under the show of liberality and guise of cheapness?

Remarks on his answer to the fifteenth question.

I enclose a copy of a letter, marked A No. 2, from Major Thomas Biddle. Col. Atkinson wrote at the same time to the Hon. the Secretary of War. This letter has been published by the Senate. These letters may serve to shew the views of those gentlemen of the practices of the private intercourse with the Indians. Volumes might be compiled from history, beginning with the earliest settlement of the country, taking in the Dutch traders of the New England states of the 16th century and coming to our times, to prove how essentially at war their practices have always been with the peace and welfare, and even the lives, of the Indians.

I shall reserve the remarks I have to make on the charge of Mr. Varnum's having so frequently written to this office without getting a reply, for a place in the division which will be allotted for Mr. Crooks.

It remains for Major Biddle to reconcile to the good sense of the country his answers to the third and fourteenth questions. In answer to the third question, he says "*the articles, as far as he knows, are suited to the Indian trade.*" In his answer to the fourteenth question, he attributes the failure of Mr. Varnum's business as one of three causes "*to the wretched character of the supplies.*"

Remarks on Major O'Fallon's statements.

I find but little to notice in the statements of this gentleman. There are a few things, however, which it may be well to refer to. I have already explained the grounds upon which it is considered proper to sell to other persons besides Indians. It is presumed this is understood. I have furnished, with the remarks made on Major Biddle's statements, the reasons and principles which govern the factors in sending outfits to Indians. If Mr. Johnson engaged the services of such a person as the one referred to by Major O'Fallon, he must have been under a deception as to his character; he did it certainly in disobedience of his instructions.

Four years ago Mr. Johnson called for some lighter articles "to be traded with half-breeds," and, as is the practice of this office, the articles called for by the factor were sent. In this supply was the

articles of women's morocco shoes, which cost about 75 and 87½ cts. per pair. If Indians, emerging from their rougher coverings, are desirous of imitating the whites in their exterior appearances, there seems no reason why they should be refused the privilege. The insinuation, respecting the object of this supply, and also that which is reported by Major O'Fallon, on the grounds of the reports in Missouri, Illinois, and Michigan, that the "superintendent and factors are growing rich in the service," cannot be considered as entitled to any notice. The conduct and concerns of this office are at all times in readiness to be accounted for to the proper authorities.

It just occurs to me that I have a letter from Major O'Fallon, addressed to Gov. Clarke, dated May 10th, 1817, extracts of which accompany this, marked A No. 3, from which may be gathered the opinions of Major O'Fallon in 1817, of the conduct of the British and Mackinac traders; and who those British and Mackinac traders are, may be ascertained from letters, and extracts of letters, which will accompany my remarks on the statement of Mr. Ramsay Crooks.

Remarks on Mr. Crooks' statement.

I have reserved for the remarks I have to make on this gentleman's report to the committee, the information I have, which I beg leave to annex in extracts of sundry letters received from Mr. Irwin, of Green Bay, marked A 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, because Mr. Crooks is himself frequently referred to in them, and because he has borne a distinguished part in producing the interruption of the intercourse on the part of the Indians, with the factory at that place; and because he being agent for the American Fur Company now, so called, had a good deal at stake in overturning these establishments, and has much more at stake in the overthrow of the entire system.

These letters speak for themselves. As to what was done 22 years ago at Detroit, no person now living, it is presumed, will be held accountable for.

It is not a little surprising, that in the haste which is made to grasp the trade with our Indians, the agent of the American fur company, as its title denotes it, should not know that it is within the limits of the acknowledged duty of one branch of the government operations of this country to furnish any, and every facility which it may be in the power of another to afford. If officers and soldiers, therefore, at the factory establishments, want clothing or any other article which the factor can supply, it is within his instructions to furnish it. The taking of tallow and feathers, and sugar and hides, and even wild oats from Indians, in exchange for what they want, is countenanced, and considered proper, and it illustrates that a market may be had at the factories for these things, which would not be within reach of the Indians but for the factories—the traders taking nothing but furs and peltries.

The explanations have been given why the trade, especially at Green Bay and Chicago, has declined—and no man knows better

than Mr. Crooks the causes of this decline, and the means which it is necessary to adopt at any time to produce the same results elsewhere. No man, as an Indian trader, has equal power with him, so far as money and experience are concerned.

I now come to remark upon the assertions of both Major Biddle and Mr. Crooks, (taking the language of the latter,) respecting Mr. Varnum's soliciting *for years* to be removed, but his solicitations were not deemed worthy of acknowledgment. I enclose, in reply to this, an extract from my letter dated December, 1820, marked A 14; also, a letter from Mr. Varnum of June, 1817, with my reply, marked A 13, in which he proposes an *extension* of the operations of the factory. The factory at Chicago, in charge of Mr. Varnum, did not go into operation till 1816. Soon after which, the excellence of the furs taken there, made it an object with the traders to destroy the government intercourse. The measures adopted for this purpose are set forth in the letters and extracts already submitted. The *compact*, by 1818, had completely succeeded. I was informed of these proceedings, and in 1818, my mind was made up, and I knew the power of these "British and Mackinac" traders, and others, to be competent to put down the Green Bay and Chicago factories; and there being no efficient regulations under the licence system to sustain them, or indeed any others, I felt it my duty, first, to suggest to the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives, under a call of his, what I considered important to a preservation of the system, and recommended in 1818, about two years after the Chicago factory had been in operation, under a full view of what was going on, and a conviction of the design on the part of the traders to overthrow the system, and there being no checks to restrain them, that unless the system were strengthened there could be no better time for its abandonment than that. See extract of my letter to the Chairman of the Committee of the House of Representatives herewith sent, marked A No. 11.

The system was continued, however, in its manacled state, one year after another, and only one year at a time, making it uncertain whether it would be finally continued or abandoned.

Meanwhile, under the hope, year after year, that something would be done, and being unwilling to recommend a removal until the matter should be finally decided, leaving the Indians in that quarter without any guard in the event of the continuance of the system, I delayed moving in the subject till July last, when, perceiving that the capital was likely to be entrenched upon by the continuance of both the Green Bay and Chicago factories, I recommended their abandonment and removal to the St. Peters, as per my letter to the Honorable the Secretary of War, copy herewith, marked A No. 12.

I enclose three letters from Mr. Sibley of Missouri, illustrative of the nature of the trade, as prosecuted by individuals, &c. marked A Nos. 15, 16, and 17.

All which is respectfully submitted.

THOS. L. M'KENNEY, S. I. T.

A—No. 1.

Extract of a letter from the Superintendent of Indian Trade to J. W. Johnson, United States' Factor at Prairie du Chien, dated 2d September, 1816.

“ I have considered what remains, and particularly the desire of the Sack Indians, near the Lead Mines, to be supplied with merchandise. It is entirely within the scope of our policy to extend every reasonable assistance to all the Indians within our limits, so far as that may be practicable, and consistent with the amount of our trading capital. At present, however, I am unable to see how this can be done to any considerable extent, or at all, unless you could send supplies from Prairie du Chien, and out of your stock now in trade, which might be augmented somewhat for this purpose. To make a depot at St. Louis, and supply individuals from it at cost and charges, however valuable the results might be in putting down British traders, and in attaching the Indians to us, cannot be done at this time. This, however, may be done, if Congress shall accede to the plan of the Secretary of War, in augmenting the capital of this establishment; and, under judicious regulations, much good would no doubt, result from it. Meanwhile, you can exercise your discretion in pushing on occasional supplies, from the Factory at Prairie du Chien, which, as I have said, shall be occasionally, and additionally, replenished.

“ It is hardly necessary for me to call your attention to the risk that is involved in sending out traders. I am sure that you will have an eye upon their honesty and fair dealings; and, in case you shall be deceived, to have in your possession sufficient security, as a reserve, to bring up their arrears. This point well guarded, and which must, of course, be left to you, I shall be gratified if those Indians, on the river St. Peters, and at the Lead Mines, could have their wants supplied, if but partially.”

Extract from the same to the same, dated 11th March, 1819.

“ I beg leave to call your attention to the privilege granted you to issue supplies of merchandise to American traders of good character, and generally, under the instructions which that permission embraced.

“ It appears to me that the plan is liable to abuse; and, however the effects may go to lessen the evils growing out of the peddling system, carried on by foreigners, and all sorts of characters, to the injury of the Indians, and the disgrace of human nature, yet a danger appears to be apprehended on the other hand. It is that which implies exorbitant charges, which those, to whom you furnish supplies, have it in their power to make, and, by this means, the relief

which it was intended, through them, to carry in amongst the Indians, may be converted into an evil.

“ I suggest, therefore, and beg that you will have the goodness to attend to it with all the punctuality which its importance merits, that you be particular, first, in the sort of men, (especially in their just and moral character,) you may entrust this liberty to; second, require of them *prompt* and frequent settlements; third, trust to no man another supply, till he pays for the preceding; fourth, to his invoice, add a column, and affix to each article the price he is to ask of the Indians, and regulate the advance upon a scale of equal justice, which implies a just compensation to him for his trouble, and the distance of the tribe, or tribes, with whom he may trade, and a fair demand upon the Indians. Direct, also, what he is to allow for the various skins he may take in barter. Of all this, you will be the best judge. I refer it to your discretion, with but one additional remark; the Indians must be justly treated and dealt by, and we must, so far as we have the power to control the trade, do by them accordingly. No trader, who goes out from the factory, being aided with supplies by it, will be permitted to violate the rules which relate to it. He must do his business with the natives without the intervention of whiskey, or any spirituous liquors. It is the curse of these people. We should use all proper and lawful means to save them from its baleful effects.

“ Take such testimony against a trader who may violate your instructions, as you may think ought to condemn him, and trust him no more. He must consent to dispense with legal requirements, and let his good conduct keep him free from even slight imputations.”

In relation to the suitability of the supplies which go from this office, I beg leave to subjoin an extract from a letter received from Governor Cass, dated in August, 1816; and to add, that out of forty odd thousand dollars worth of this very stock, which were sent out in that year, only about \$800 were bought outside of this district.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY,
Superintendent Indian Trade.

Extract.

“ I have been much gratified to find the goods sent here for the Indians, are very well selected. Perfect justice has been done. I am informed by persons in the Indian Department, that such a selection was never sent to this country. In fact, I cannot conceive that they could be better suited to the objects for which they are sent.”

A. No. 2.

Extract of a letter from Major Thomas Biddle to Colonel H. Atkinson, dated October 29th, 1819, at camp Missouri, Missouri river.

“These traders are continually endeavouring to lessen each other in the eyes of the Indians, not only by abusive words, but by all sorts of low tricks and manœuvres. If a trader trusts an Indian, his opponent uses all his endeavours to purchase the furs he may take, or prevent in any way his being paid; each trader supports his favorite chief, which produces not only intestine commotions and divisions in the tribe, but destroys the influence of the principal chief, who should always be under the control of the government. The introduction of ardent spirits is one of the unhappy consequences of this opposition among traders; so violent is the attachment of Indians for it, that he who gives most is sure to obtain furs; while, should any attempt to trade without it, he is sure of losing ground with his antagonist. No bargain is ever concluded without it, and the law on the subject is evaded, by their saying they give, not sell it. The traders being afraid to trust the Indians, they cannot make distant hunts; this, and their attachment to whiskey, induces them to hang about in the vicinity of trading establishments, and as they take furs sell them for whiskey; the consequence is, that but few furs are taken, as much of the hunting season is lost in intoxication and indolence. The Indians witnessing the efforts of these people to cheat and injure each other, and knowing no other or no more important white men, they readily imbibe the idea, that all white men are alike, bad. The imposing appearance of the army equipments of white men, and the novelty and convenience of their merchandise, had impressed the Indians with the high idea of their power and importance; but the avidity with which Beaver skins are sought after, the tricks and wrangling made use of, and the degradations submitted to in obtaining them, have induced a belief that the whites cannot exist without them, and made a great change in their opinion of our importance, our justice, and our power.

Under the plea of trading with the Indians, white trappers and hunters obtain a footing in their country. The old man and his son whipped and robbed this summer by the Pawnees, and the three men killed about the same time by the Sioux, were persons of this description; the trouble these sort of transactions may occasion the government cannot be readily calculated. It will illustrate what I have said, to narrate what happened on my visit to the Maha nation, from which I yesterday returned. The nation was preparing to start on their winter's hunt, and endeavouring to obtain guns, powder, and lead, to subsist themselves, while trapping; they complained bitterly that they could not procure enough of these articles; the traders were afraid to trust them; there were two traders in the camp, both jealous and apprehensive of each other; in conversation with the Indians they invariably abused the traders, and the traders abused each other; the tribe separated into small hunting bands, very much dissatisfied, and the traders would send round occasionally to these bands to

purchase their furs: a keg of whiskey was considered an indispensable equipment for such an undertaking. I had found on my arrival most of the principal men drunk. The Big Elk, who is so much our friend, and who formerly possessed unlimited power in his nation, was so drunk for two days, that I could not deliver your letter to him; when I gave it, I requested the interpreter to inform him that I had been two days waiting to deliver a letter from you, but that, very much to my surprise, I had found him too drunk to transact business. He appeared affected at what I said, acknowledged how unworthy it was in him to be in that situation, and admitted he had lost much power by it. He blamed the whites for bringing liquor into the country, said when he knew it was not to be had he felt no inclination for it, but that when it was near and attainable, his attachment for it was irresistible. Besides, said he, your traders come among my nation, give medals and make chiefs of every man who can obtain a party to trap Beaver. It is the ambition of these chiefs that opposes me and makes me powerless. I know that there are Mahas now alive as brave and as wise as I am; it was fortune or chance that placed me at the head of the nation, and I cannot control my tribe, while the whites assist those who oppose me. Thus is the influence of this valuable and sensible Indian lost to his tribe and the government, and thus is a man who possesses some traits that do honor to human nature, debased and made a beast of."

A. No. 3.

Extracts from B. O'Fallon's letter to Gov. Clark, dated May 10, 1817.

"On reaching Prairie du Chien, my surprise and disappointment was on the extreme, in meeting with numerous British traders (equipped with licences under the authority of my government) whose conduct during the late Indian war was the most unprincipled, the most inhuman, and disgraceful to civilized man.

"Suspicious characters, the very men who had been instrumental in the destruction of many of the women and children of our frontiers, I found were licensed traders, and ready to take a dishonorable part, in distressing and checking the progress of American enterprise.

"Be assured that I complied strictly with your request, by keeping a watchful eye over the feelings of the Indians, disposition and conduct of the *faithless Mackinac traders*. From appearances and Indian reports, the Mackinac traders left no measure unturned; in endeavouring to make the minds of the Indians more corrupt, destroy the little influence the Americans had acquired over some few, and have me, the only American in that country, destroyed. No doubt exists, in my mind, but that the 45 Chippeways, (who visited me during the winter,) between whom and the Sioux I effected a peace, were sent

by some of the villanous British traders of the north west, to massacre, or rob me; they, during a stay of three day, shewed every disposition to commit murder, or robbery, which (I am induced to believe) was prevented by the unexpected arrival of the Siouxs."

A. No. 4.

Extract of a letter from the Factor at Green Bay to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated March 10, 1817.

"The opportunity of conveying this being immediate, leaves me little time to state why so little business has been done at this factory during the winter; and, without going into a detail of minor reasons, I believe the principal ones will be found to be these: 1st. The admission of many British traders, who have been accustomed to do business in this quarter, and who placed themselves in the most advantageous places for business within 50, 70, and 100 miles of this: 2dly. The hints given the Indians by these traders to follow them, lest the Americans might punish them for their recent bad conduct during the late war: 3dly. The practice (conducted secretly) of vending whiskey: and, 4thly. The prejudices excited by the traders against our factories.

"I recognize among them, many who were openly and highly instrumental in exciting the Indians of our territory to rise in arms against us during the late war. I think, if British traders are to be admitted to trade with Indians, regard should be had to their past, or, at least, a guarantee given for their future conduct.

"The Indian agents* in this quarter, contrary to custom, exact 50 dollars from each private trader, British or American, for each annual licence, which is considered as a perquisite of office, notwithstanding they are salary officers."

* Major PUTNOFF, since dismissed.

A. No. 5.

Extract of a letter from Matthew Irwin, United States' Factor, at Green Bay, to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated

"GREEN BAY, September 29th, 1817.

"I have more than once given you my opinion in relation to the state of this factory, and what it might probably accomplish; and I recollect I stated, that it could supply the wants of all the Indians comprised in this district. In compliance with this belief, I made corresponding arrangements, after the receipt of your letter of the 28th [a copy of which is enclosed, marked A. No. 18.] of May last. Several applications were made, by American citizens, to obtain merchandise, for the purpose of supplying the wants of the Indians; and presuming it to be the intention of the government to have the Indians supplied by them, I encouraged, after the receipt of your said letter, the ap-

plications of Lewis Rouse and Thomas P. James; who incurred considerable expense in making the preparatory arrangements for that purpose.

“They had too an assurance from the Indian agent here, that he would not license British subjects to trade, where they intended to establish themselves. Mr. Rouse was to supply the Indians, at or near the Ouisconsin; and Mr. James those at Monomanie river; and intended to send a person to Winnebago lake. A few days previous to their departure for those places, information was received, that a number of British traders, licensed by the Indian agent at Mackinac, were on their way to trade with the Indians at the places to which Mr. Rouse and Mr. James intended going; and a confirmation of it soon after came, in a letter from the Governor of Michigan territory to the Indian agent at Mackinac, informing, that he had received a letter from the Secretary of War, stating that Mr. John Jacob Astor had purchased the whole of the interest in the late South West Company, and wished every facility to be given him, in carrying on his trade with the Indians; in consequence of which, the governor directed the said agent to license all persons that the agent of Mr. Astor should name to him. Mr. Astor’s agent is a Mr. Crooks, a known and professed British subject, who named to the agent at Mackinac a number of persons, all British subjects, whom the agent licensed. Several of them came to this place, for the purpose of trading with the Indians at the Ouisconsin, and other places.

“This, at once, would have determined Mr. Rouse and Mr. James to abandon their undertaking; but they had engaged the necessary number of persons for the usual period, six months, and incurred other expenses. They, therefore, determined not to abandon their undertaking, although they feel persuaded it will eventually be a bad business; as they think they are not able to cope in business with old and experienced persons, personally acquainted with the Indians, &c.

“Should they be correct, I fear it will be difficult to persuade other American citizens to undertake to supply the Indians in this quarter. Besides the British traders licensed to trade at the Ouisconsin, others were licensed by the agent at Mackinac, to trade at the Upper Mississippi, and this place, at which, in the village alone, six are licensed; and all of them, with one exception, held commissions during the late war, are influential with the Indians, and were named by me in my letter of the 24th of July last, to the Indian agent here, a copy of which I transmitted you.

“The persons engaged by the American house of David Stone and Co. were British subjects, and they were, I understand, licensed by the agent at Mackinac. Governor Clark, last year, directed the stoppage of British subjects entering the Mississippi; Governor Edwards requested the agent at Chicago to prevent them from entering the Illinois. What reasons exist for allowing them to trade with the Indians in this quarter, I am at a loss to imagine.

“ It is well known it is not necessary to license British subjects to trade at Mackinac, as very little business is done there by the Indians; and if it were greater, the American store-keepers could attend to it. At Chicago, the factory used to supply all the Indians in that quarter; and it can be well established, that it is wholly unnecessary to license a single person at this place; for, last year, a British trader (Peter Grignon) supplied all the Indians at or near the Ouisconsin; and another (Peter Powell) those at Manomomie river; and the trade in this village, was attended to by two or three British subjects, who, altogether, did not make 20 packs.

“ There appears a palpable incongruity in the manner of conducting the Indian trade: the Factors are sent to supply the wants of the Indians, and the Indian agents can adopt such measures as to defeat all their plans to that end. It is very certain that the authority vested in them to issue licences, is well calculated to destroy all the benefits that might be expected from the factories; particularly too, when they interfere with each other's district, as is the case with the agent at Mackinac, who is in the constant practice of licensing persons to trade here and on the Mississippi. I can promise nothing from this factory whilst these irregularities exist. It was not expected that Mr. Astor would engage to do business with the Indians none but British subjects, and those too so exceptionable in every particular.

“ Considering, then, that the plans which I might adopt next year, for supplying the Indians, are liable to be frustrated, by the impediments which seem to be put in the way of the prosperity of the factory; and the consequent injury it would do the individuals I might engage for that purpose, I must beg you to decline the sending any more merchandise here, unless the Secretary of War can correct the irregularities which I have alluded to. The truth is, the factories require to be well supported, before they can be of any utility. One of the first measures to which should be, the prohibition to grant licences, where the factory can supply the necessities of the Indians.”

A. No. 6.

Extract of a letter from Matthew Irwin, United States' Factor at Green Bay, to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated

GREEN BAY, June 18, 1818.

“ Your letter of the 6th of March requires that I should notice it in a particular manner, though I fear I shall not do justice to the subject. You say, from the refusal on the part of the government to let foreigners into a participation of our trade, that you think I may calculate on success in future, and that you look to a revival of the trade. There can be nothing more certain, than that, if foreigners were kept out of the country, a good business might be done here. It ap-

pears that the government has been under an impression, the southwest company, of which Mr. John Jacob Astor is the head, is strictly an American company; and, in consequence, some privileges, in relation to trade, have been granted to that company, and, of such a nature, as to put it out of the power of any persons concerned in fur companies, who, if they consulted their interest, would, whilst the British possess influence over the Indians, employ none but British subjects. The circumstance I allude to, is this: A short time previous to the declaration of war, Mr. Astor obtained from the then Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Gallatin, an order directing the collector of the customs at Mackinac to suffer Mr. Astor to have his furs (which were at the British post St. Joseph's,) landed at Mackinac. The agent employed on that business was a British subject. On his way to St. Joseph's, he communicated to the British at Malden that war had been or would be declared. The British made corresponding arrangements, and landed on the Island of Mackinac with regulars, Canadians, and Indians, before the commanding officer there had notice that war had been declared. The same course was about to be pursued at Detroit, before the arrival of troops with Gen. Hull, who, having been on the march there, frustrated it. The giving Mr. Astor the order to suffer his furs to be landed at, and shipped from, Mackinac, had, it was believed, for its object, to secure them from capture or detention, should they have been shipped from St. Joseph's after the declaration of war should be known. The collector read the order in the presence of several persons. Mr. Astor's agent brought the furs to Mackinac *in company with the British troops*, and the whole transaction is well known at Mackinac and Detroit."

A. No. 7.

Extract of a letter from the Factor at Green Bay, to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated August 10th, 1818.

"Seeing that the business of this factory must, in some measure, be regulated by the various fluctuations which occur in the Indian trade, I reduced the prices of many of the goods on hand; particularly those first received, as I discovered that if I did not do it, I should do little or no business, in consequence of a determination on the part of British traders, to undersell the goods in the factory.— They put in practice a plan (suggested by Joseph Rolette) for preventing the factory from doing any business. It was this: each trader to advance a piece of strouds, with the usual assortment of other articles, (termed by them an assorted piece of stroud) to be sold at first cost; and keeping a person employed to watch the arrival of the Indians and take them to the house where those goods were kept. It proved as they desired, successful, and will account in some measure for the little business I have done with Indians."

A. No. 8.

Extract of a letter from the United States Factor at Green Bay, to the Superintendent of Indian Trade.

“The fact can be established that in almost every case the persons engaged by Mr. Astor’s principal agent, Mr. Crooks, (who is a British subject) were known British subjects; many of them having held commissions under the British Government and headed Indians during the late war. For example: at this place Mr. Astor sent goods to the following persons, last fall, to be traded along side the factory: to

JOHN LOWE,	} British subjects and holding commissions from the British government in the Indian department, during the late war.
LEWIS GRIGNON,	
AUGUSTINE GRIGNON, and	
PETER POWELL.	

“And the following persons were sent by Mr. Astor in the neighborhood of Mr. Rouse, whom I sent to do business with the Indians at the Ouisconsin.

PETER GRIGNON,	} British subjects belonging to this place, and holding commissions, during the late war, from the British government, in the Indian department.
MR. JACOBS,	
MR. CHAPEREAU, and	
J. B. GRIGNON.	

“And Mr. Lusienaux, (a British subject) was sent by Mr. Astor to trade with the Indians at Winnebago lake. At Menomine river, where I sent Mr. Thomas P. James to trade, he was opposed by a Canadian sent by Mr. Astor; and in an underhand manner by Peter Powell, a British subject who held a commission in the Indian department during the late war.

“It appears that the persons sent by Mr. Astor to other places to trade with Indians were British subjects, and when it happened that the principal person having charge of the goods, was culpable in his conduct during the late war, in that case a discharged soldier was procured at Mackinac to accompany the goods, who would affect to have the agency of them, whilst all the others, even the boatmen, were British subjects. Similar conduct has been observed by the house of David Stone and Co. at Mackinac; one of the partners of which (Michael Dousman) piloted the British armament to Mackinac during the late war. Stone’s house opposes that of Astor’s in trade. Added to these irregularities must be noticed the traffic carried on secretly in whiskey at this place

“The Indians are frequently kept in a state of intoxication, giving their furs, &c. at great sacrifices for whiskey. A return to reason will induce many of them to mention who sold them the whiskey, but it is deemed illegal to accept Indian testimony; so that the British and American traders (of the latter several have arrived here) may deal in whiskey without the smallest chance of detection. The agents of Mr. Astor hold out an idea that they will, ere long, be able to break down the factories; and they menace the Indian agents and others

who may interfere with them, with dismissal from office, through Mr. Astor. They say that a representation from Messrs. Crooks and Stewart (Mr. Astor's agents) led to the dismissal of the Indian agent at Mackinac, and they also say that the Indian agent here is to be dismissed. It appears that the commanding officer at Prairie du Chien, undertook, at the instigation of the Indian agent, to stop and send to St. Louis some of Mr. Astor's British trading subjects. For this act it is said the agent will be dismissed from the public service; and we have now the novel spectacle before us of a British subject (Mr. Crooks) travelling to the Prairie, with a passport, from governor Cass, said to be given by authority of the War Department, to inquire into the conduct of the Indian agent and commanding officer."

A. No. 9.

Extract of a letter from the United States' Factor at Green Bay to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated 15th February, 1820.

"Since the receipt of your letter of the 10th of September last, (which I acknowledged on the 1st of December,) nothing has been done by the Indian agent to restrain the British traders residing in the village, from having intercourse with the Indians in the way of trade. In fact, from the prejudices they have excited against American traders, the Indian trade is confined to the British traders, who, from selling whiskey privately, and from the ties of relationship, &c. with the Indians, will continue to enjoy it so long as the orders relative to the subject are unattended to by the agent.

"The Indian trade is virtually surrendered to those persons, and no efforts on my part can prevent it—the remedy must come from another quarter. The Indians are altogether led away by the British traders; and, whilst the American traders and officers are insulted by the Indians at a distance from the fort, those traders are cherished and caressed. The proof of which I will give you.

"1st. Some time last summer, a boat loaded with goods, and owned by an American trader, (Mr. Armitinger,) was fired upon by some Indians near Winnebago lake.

"2d. Capt. Whistler, of the army, wrote from Winnebago lake, that the Indians had fired upon his boat while on his way to St. Louis in August last.

"3d. Doctor Madison, of the army, informed his correspondent here, that some Indians plundered him at Winnebago lake last fall.

"4th. Lewis Grignon, James Porlier & Son, and Augustus, (British subjects,) proceeded to the Ouisconsin last fall with their boats loaded with goods, without experiencing insult or obstruction. On the contrary, the Indians in that direction accompanied them for the purpose of hunting for them during the fall, winter, and spring.

"I am confident that nothing but an unqualified expulsion of those traders from this place, for the due observance of the orders received, will produce a favorable change in the minds of the Indians.

“The village contains from 45 to 48 families, who all profess to be the subjects of Britain, and from 10 to 12 British traders rule them. This state of things has existed for many years without any present prospect of alteration.”

A. No. 10.

Extract of a letter from the Factor at Green Bay to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated October 6th, 1821.

“Mr. Kenzie, son to the sub Indian agent at Chicago, and agent for the American Fur Company, has been detected in selling large quantities of whiskey to the Indians, at and near Milwaukie of lake Michigan. In consequence of which, the Indian agent at Chicago directed him to close his concerns at Milwaukie in sixty days, and then leave the place. Some Indians from that place represented to me that they would be badly off for a trader, should Mr. Kenzie leave them; in consequence of which, I engaged Mr. Vieau, a citizen of the United States, and a professed Indian trader, to repair there for the purpose of supplying the wants of the Indians. I have supplied him with \$2,228 25 worth of goods, and have agreed to allow him two hundred dollars from the time of his departure till his return next spring, with an allowance of some coarse clothing and subsistence. Two boatmen and two boys will receive, altogether, two hundred dollars, with some coarse clothing and subsistence. Mr. Vieau is well known here for his integrity, and possesses property enough here to cover the whole amount with which I have entrusted him.”

A. No. 11.

Extract of a letter from the Superintendent of Indian Trade, to the honorable Henry Southard, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, of the House of Representatives, dated 28th December, 1818.

“I cannot, therefore, forego the obligations I feel, to urge the necessity of giving to the existing government intercourse, that support and protection which the generosity of its design, and the nobleness of its object, appear to me to merit; and this implies a better regulated licence system, so as to restrict such individuals as may hereafter go amongst our home Indians, to cancel the licences of such as are now acting under such authority, and this may be done by a law, forbidding their removal except through particular channels and under other restrictions, and an augmentation of the trade fund. A close investigation of the state of which, warrants me in

saying, that, rid of the private traders, except such as would be really useful, the trade could be made to embrace our home Indians; if, to its present capital, which is shewn to be only \$236,630 39, were added as much as would bring it up to \$300,000.

“ These two things being done, results, alike favorable to the Indians, and to the peace and security of our borders, would no doubt be realized; and these would be no less gratifying to the government, than to those humane and benevolent men who are coming in with so much ardor in aid of the government design. But unless these two things can be realized, I feel it to be no less my duty to assure you, that, in my opinion, no future period could so well answer to wind up the business of the government trade, as the present.”

A. No. 12.

INDIAN TRADE OFFICE, *July 5th, 1821.*

SIR: I have the honor respectfully to represent, that, for three years last past, the two factories on the lakes, one at Chicago, the other at Green Bay, have been in a measure useless to the Indians, and in a pecuniary point of view, to the government also. This state of things is owing entirely to the unsuitable provisions which exist for the regulation of the trade. Hordes of private adventurers, availing themselves of the looseness of the system, have crowded into these parts on account of the superiority of the furs which are taken there, and level all sorts of policy but their own, by the powerful agency which they derive from the free use of spirituous liquors, as an article of their commerce, and after which the Indians, however afflicting they know the consequences to be, will go.

This view of the state of these two factories should have been given thus formally before, had I not waited in the hope that Congress would have placed this trade under the guidance of suitable regulations, which, if done, would ensure to the government the harmony and attachment of these lake Indians, and to the Indians all the consequences which the government contemplated, in the adoption of this just and humane branch of its policy. This hope, and the apprehension that a removal of the factories, which, although they do but little in the way of trade, operate as a check to the traders, might expose the Indians to oppression, seemed to authorize me in waiting for the final judgment of Congress in this matter. I am unable, however, on a review of this subject, to realize in the proceedings of the last Congress any additional disposition to place this item upon what I conceive its proper basis, and the continuation of the same inactivity which has hitherto characterized the business done at these two factories, promising to make inroads upon the fund allotted for the trade, I do not feel myself authorized further to delay a decision on the subject, and recommend it accordingly for the executive approval. It is, to break up and discontinue the two factories located at Chicago and Green Bay. In making this decision, however,

I am led to it entirely from considerations growing out of the duty which my trust imposes on me, and which embraces an obligation binding on me to keep the capital from diminution, and not from considerations of *policy*. My opinion is, that an abandonment of these posts must tend to much excitement, and a corresponding alienation of feelings on the part of the Indians from the government, as well as to bloodshed. This, however, is a part of the case at which I feel myself authorized but incidentally to glance.

I propose, on breaking up the trading houses at Chicago and Green Bay, to unite the stocks so far as they may furnish suitable materials, and follow the military post with a factory to the St. Peter's. The government is not yet known in the exercise of its parental capacity in supplying the wants of the Indians in that region. In addition to the advantages which the Indians will derive from a factory located at or near the military post, will be the active and abundant returns which will be received from it.

If this recommendation be approved, I will have to dispose of, at Chicago, the items enumerated in the inclosed invoice, which are unsuited to a trade at St. Peter's, and which, supposing they may be useful in the event of a treaty with any tribes of Indians in that region, I propose to turn over to the Indian Department at costs and charges, and pass the amount over to the debit of the Indian Department account with this office.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THOMAS L. M'KENNEY,
Superintendent Indian Trade.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

A. No. 13.

UNITED STATES' FACTORY,

Chicago, June 20th, 1817.

SIR: The exclusion of foreigners from participating in the Indian trade, will, it is believed, justify the extension of the operations of this establishment. This, together with the consideration of the large supply of blankets and cloths now on hand, induce me to recommend a distribution of the goods of this factory among the adjacent villages, for trade, to such an extent as will ensure the sale of nearly all by the expiration of the trading season. Such a measure, I am well convinced, will be highly gratifying to the Indians, as a great number, by this means, will be enabled to supply themselves with goods on more reasonable terms than could otherwise be done, nor do I apprehend any difficulty in effecting it to the advantage of the government, as gentlemen of unquestionable integrity have already applied for such outfits. An answer on this subject, as early as convenient, will be highly gratifying.

I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant,
JACOB B. VARNUM,
United States Factor.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

From the Superintendent of Indian Trade to the United States' Factor at Chicago, dated 20th September, 1817.

SIR: Your letter of the 20th June is before me. On the subject of distributing the merchandise of the factory, and settling in other agencies, with a view to augment the sales, and serve the Indians, is one which has had my consideration. There can be no objection to the measure but on account of the risk it involves. It is true the discretion of the factor is of importance to regulate this point, but experience has proved that he may sometimes be mistaken.

From the possibility of losing, I have discountenanced this kind of extension of the trade, except under circumstances of particular restriction and security, and in general it has been hard to procure the latter.

If, however, you can place in separate hands, say from two to four, an amount of goods, in *the whole*, amounting to fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars at *the most*, without injury to the assortment of the stock of the factory, and under terms of security satisfactory to yourself, I can have no objection; provided, that in no case any additional supply be furnished to either of the sub-traders until the previous one be settled for, having out, at no time, an amount exceeding two thousand dollars.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY.

A No. 14.

Extract of a letter from the Superintendent of Indian Trade to the U. S. Factor at Chicago, dated 20th December, 1820.

“Without some alleviating circumstances of better business, or a new framing of laws, under which so much abuse of the system has got in by the agency of private traders, it will become necessary to discontinue the factory in your charge. I have waited thus long, hoping that Congress would act in relation to this matter.”

A No. 15.

FORT OSAGE, April 16, 1819.

SIR: I am yet ignorant what alterations have been made by Congress, at their last session, in our Indian trade system, though I have accidentally learned that the trading houses are continued for another year. I said “Indian trade system;” so it is called; but it is no

more like a system, than the yells of an Indian are like music; and yet it is complained "that the government system has not affected much, if any, good; that it has not realized the public expectations; has not civilized and christianized the savages, or extended and strengthened the influence of the government among the Indians."

Little, indeed, has this system effected, and that little is more than ought reasonably to have been expected, if it is considered how very defective our laws are on the subject of Indian trade and intercourse, and how little support this system, as it is called, has ever received from government. True, it has received its existence from government, and has, by sufferance from year to year, been kept in a miserable languishing state, to this time; like a wretch under sentence of death, it has been reprieved from year to year, still under sentence, growing weaker and weaker; while its enemies are acquiring fresh vigor from new hopes; and, in the mean time, this poor skeleton of a wretched system is tortured with upbraidings, abuse, and reproaches, because blood still flows on the frontiers, and the tomahawk and scalping knife are not exchanged for the bible and the plough. Let our legislators look fairly into this subject. If it is a subject worthy to be considered, why is it so neglected? If unworthy, dismiss it, and let loose the hungry traders. If the lives and property of our frontier people are in the safe keeping of their government, it would seem proper that government should control those whose irregular commerce places those lives and that property in jeopardy. If we (I rank myself among the frontier settlers,) are not entitled to that protection, keep us no longer in suspense; give up the Indian trade, (and with it, of course, all influence over the Indians) to "*individual enterprize*," and let this be proclaimed along the frontiers: "Americans, farmers! you who may emphatically be called the pioneers of civilization; you have been induced to remove your families to the borders, you have purchased lands there from the government, and have been led to believe, that your government possessed and meant to retain the power to control your only enemies, the savages and the traders, and thus afford you protection; and such truly was the intention of government. But, it is now different; the clamorous cupidity of the traders will no longer be restrained; the Indian trade must be given up to "*individual enterprize*," to merciless men, who feel not for your sufferings, and care not for your wrongs; to intriguing foreigners, who thirst for the blood of your wives and little ones; to the unprincipled pioneers of commerce of every shade and hue. We will instruct these people to conduct their trade honestly, to abstain from every practice that may have a tendency to endanger your peace and safety, and we shall compel them to give bonds with securities, for the faithful observance of our instructions; farther we cannot protect you, for these enterprizing people must be left free to pursue the trade with the Indians; they are entitled to the benefits of the fur trade, and have assured us, on *their honor*, that they cannot prosecute it to their liking under the present checks and restrictions.

“Your property will be sacrificed; your families murdered; and your farms desolated; but these men insist upon their rights, and the fur trade must be left open to them; your Indian neighbors must also be given up to the moral and political schooling of this worthy class of citizens; they will be kept in darkness, and their natural pursuits of war and hunting prolonged as long as there remains a beaver or a bear in these extensive forests. If they sometimes break in upon you and commit robberies and murders, you know it is the nature of a savage so to act. Perhaps, these traders might, if they thought proper, divert them of those propensities, and induce them to adopt the arts and the habits of civilization, and your example would greatly encourage them; but, alas! this would not accord with the trader’s interest, nor can they look upon your example with a friendly eye. What is the bleeding scalp of an infant, compared with the rich fur of a beaver skin?

“You are numerous, peaceful, and industrious; many of you have borne arms in the defence of your country, many are settled on that very land given to you by your government for military services, to which you once fondly hoped to retire in safety, to pass the remnant of your lives in happiness; but you have deceived yourselves, you are still doomed to a life of toil and danger; your little property, the fruits of many years labor, must be left exposed to savage depredations. Your arms must defend the frontiers, and the blood of your wives and children appease the savage propensities of your Indian neighbors, who must be left in their present unhappy state, a scourge to our frontiers, a reproach to the government; but, profitable to those *few* highly favored, because highly meritorious citizens, the Indian traders.”

But, I hope for better things, and although we are left for another year, powerless, and unprotected from the malice and the galling insults of every renegado trader; although the agents of the government are still subjected to the derision and the open opposition of the traders, without any official power to compel those people to treat the institutions of the government with a becoming respect; still I look forward, confidently, to the next Congress, for better regulations; under that hope, I shall content myself as well as I can, to serve out another year; still using personal influence, instead of that which ought to belong (but does not) to my official station, to support the character of government, and cause its policy to be respected among the Indians. I will conclude these remarks, sir, with this assurance, that, *under present circumstances*, the United States trading houses in this quarter are very little better than useless to the government, as respects any political influence they have over the Indians; (though they are certainly great conveniences, and some protection to those people,) and in my opinion had better be abolished, unless they are regenerated, better protected, and continued in operation for a longer term, instead of from year to year as heretofore. Very respectfully, sir, &c.

G. C. SIBLEY.

THOMAS L. M'KENNEY, Esq.

A. No. 16.

Extract of a letter from George C. Sibley, United States' Factor at fort Osage, to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated May, 16th 1820.

"About half of the Little Osages were here a few days ago; they brought little or nothing to trade. They came to ask for their annuity for 1820, which I of course refused to pay them, having received no order to do so, it not being yet due, and the tribe not being fairly represented.

"They had been sent by the traders, in order to excite a spirit of hostility against the government, knowing full well that their application must fail. They affected to be very angry; left me hastily; declared the treaty between them and the United States at an end, and said they never would come here again. I made no attempt to stay them, knowing that they were merely playing the fool, and that it was better to let them discover their folly themselves.

"But if those pedlars are not kept from among the Indians, they will, most inevitably, all be totally ruined. Cruel wars will be excited, our frontiers will again bleed, and the wretched Indians crushed. Mark me, sir, these things are near at hand."

 A. No. 17.

Extract of a letter from George C. Sibley, United States' Factor at fort Osage, to the Superintendent of Indian Trade, dated February 3d, 1818.

"A prejudice has already gone forth among the Indians, that the Americans cannot make goods of a good quality. They believe that all the blankets, cloths, &c. of *common quality*, are of American manufacture, and that the *British* only make the *best kinds*. The traders tell them that there are none but *American goods* for sale at the factory, and that although they are sold for low prices, they are nevertheless *very dear*, considering the quality. But that their goods are of the *real British kind*, a little dearer to be sure, but also a great deal better and handsomer. This is an argument that operates most powerfully against the factories, and not a little I assure you in favor of British politics. This present season I have had the good fortune to check in some degree this prejudice, as it relates to this trading house. My goods are of better quality than I have generally been supplied with, and although inferior to the British north western goods, will still bear some comparison with them, and have given rise to an opinion among the Indians that the Americans are improving in the important art of making blankets and cloth; which opinion I desire to strengthen and confirm by means of the excellence of next year's supplies."

A. No. 18.

The Superintendent of Indian Trade to Mathew Irwin, United States' Factor, Green Bay.

OFFICE OF INDIAN TRADE,

May 28th, 1817.

SIR: Your letters of the 10th March, are before me; one covering an inventory of goods, furs, and cash, on hand, and debts due the factory, the other, two sets of salary and subsistence accounts for the last quarter of 1816. Also, your letter of advice to Zadock Walker, Esq. which I have transmitted by this day's mail.

You have not stated what goods were exchanged or sold for the debts, and furs, and cash. No outgoings being specified, except the goods sold Col. Chambers, in whose bill there is an error of eight dollars; thirty yards of blue cloth at four dollars, being extended \$ 112 instead of \$ 120.

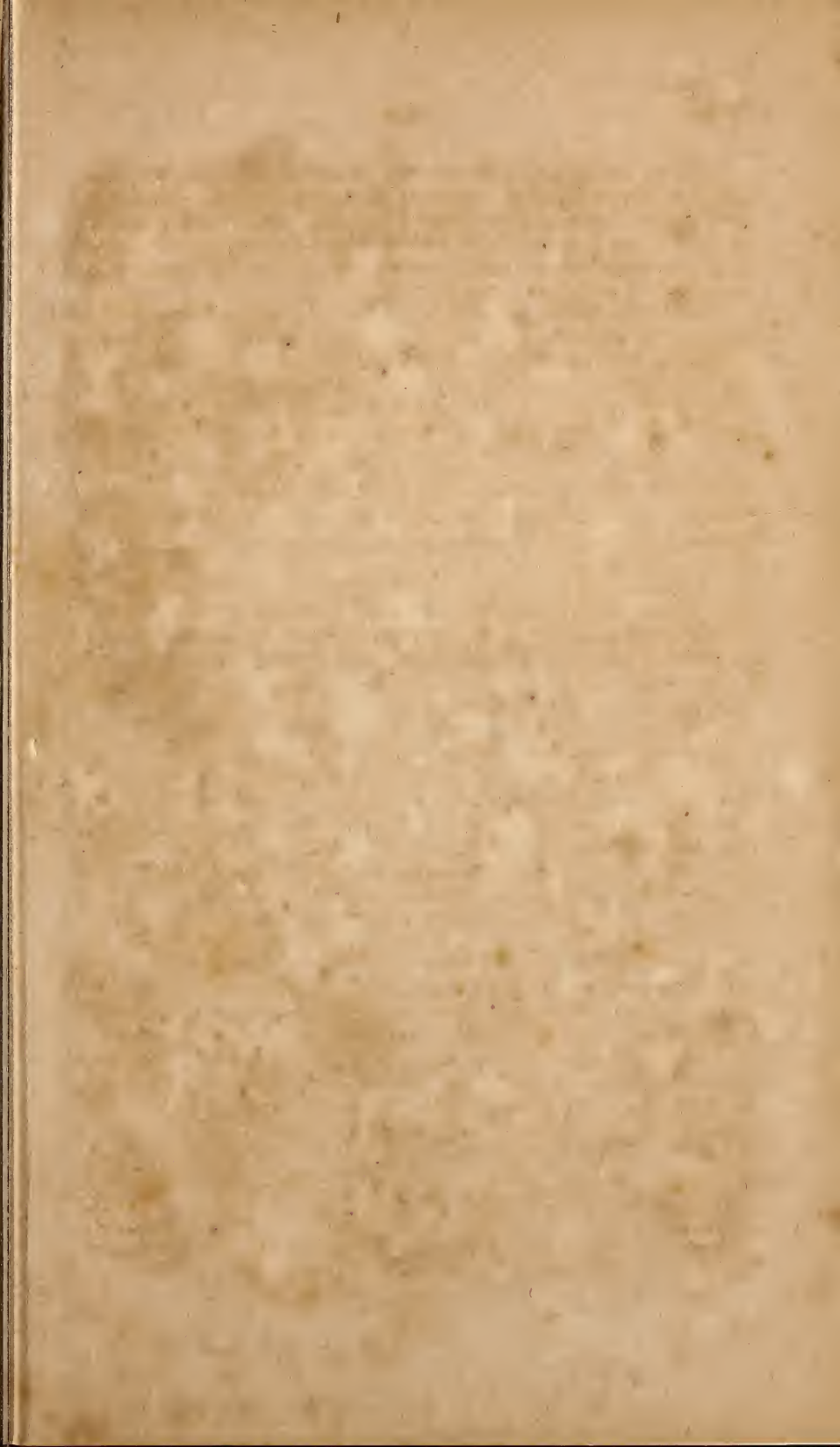
When you furnish goods to an Indian agent for the use of the Indians, it would be proper to take a draft for the amount, and remit it to this office. Two hundred and eighty-nine dollars and forty-four cents appear to have been furnished the Indian agent, and no draft accompanied your invoice.

You state that 200 barrels salt, a quantity of iron, brushes, turpentine, &c. were purchased by Major Woolley, at Pittsburg, and there is no invoice of them. There has been no account rendered of a purchase of iron. Invoices of the other articles are inclosed. I must beg the favor of you to adhere, in all respects, to the forms required by this office, and which, if you have never had them, shall be sent you. Errors, no matter how small, cause delays, and give trouble. I must request your particular attention to the subject of your quarterly accounts, not only to render them punctually, but also to have them faultless, and errorless; as far so, at least, as practicable.

I should like to hear of your prospects for trade; whether the factory promises to increase in its operations. I am adverse to a credit business, except so far as your letter of instructions warrants. I mention this to guard you. Great caution is required. Quick returns are all-essential to a vigorous prosecution of trade, and I look for them from each establishment. If factories are not well supported, it is evidence the Indians do not require them, and, it being a plan for *their* benefit, when they cease to require them it becomes a duty to send the means of administering comforts amongst other tribes who need help. I hope you will do well at Green Bay. I feel the force of your remarks on British traders, and hope they will soon be expelled. I am aware of their pertinacious adherence to a system which nothing but exertions, active and constant, on your part, can check, and if they cannot be controlled, their influence can be lessened. Are there no means to detect those who sell whiskey? If so, why not make examples of a few of them?

Such of the British traders as you recognize as having been hostile to us during the war, report to the agent, and transmit me copies of your remonstrance, which I will take care, in case he should omit or forget to act, to hand in to the War Department. Specify in your statement that the agent receives fifty dollars for issuing a license, and I will report upon it.

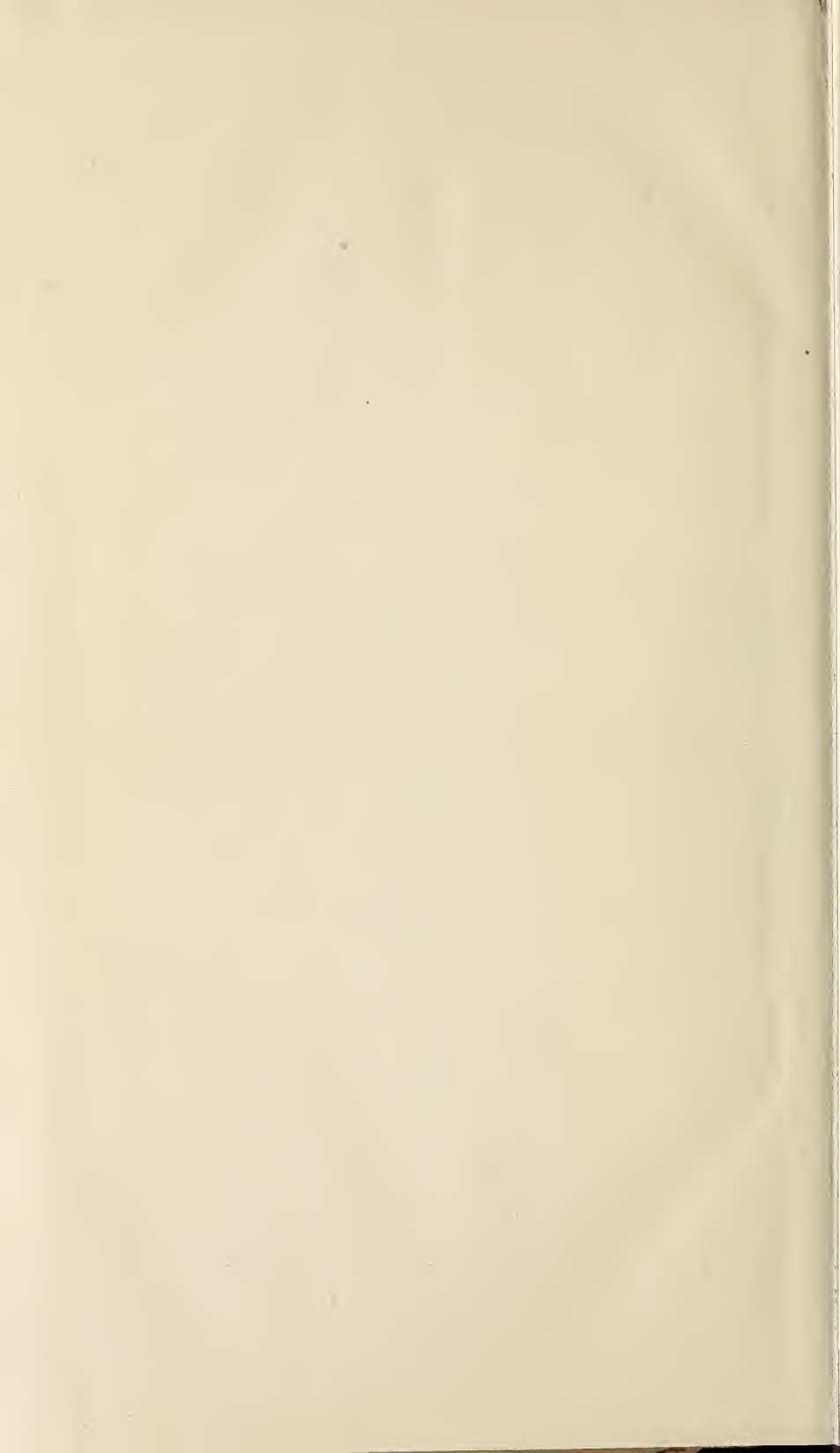
There is much risk in crediting goods to be carried amongst the Indians; the plan is a good one, if the risk were less. I have no objection to authorize you to send small parcels out to serve the Indians, never to amount to more than two thousand dollars, and this sum to be in sundry hands. Nor to repeat an advance to any one till the previous one is fully adjusted. But issue none except on security.

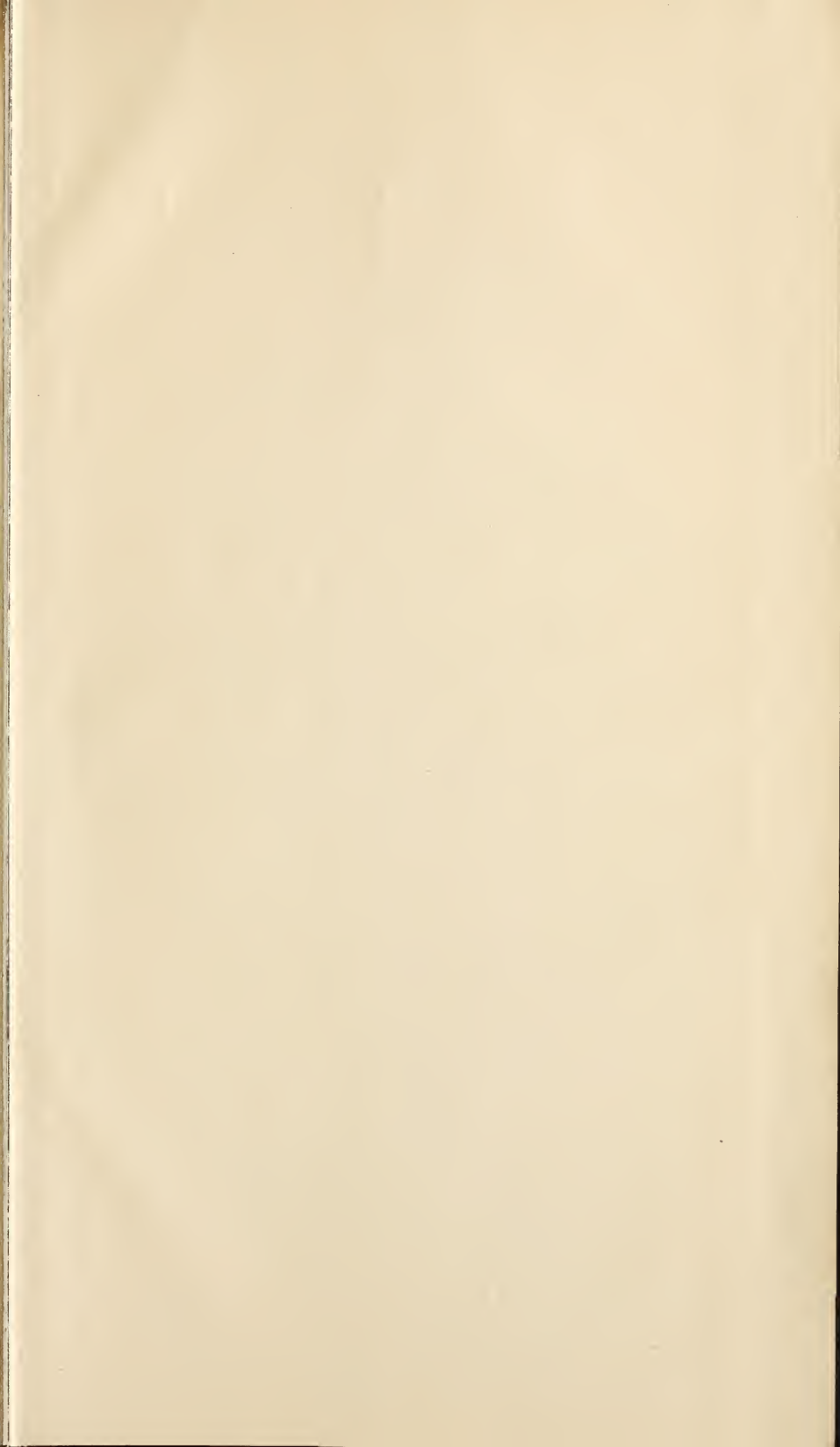


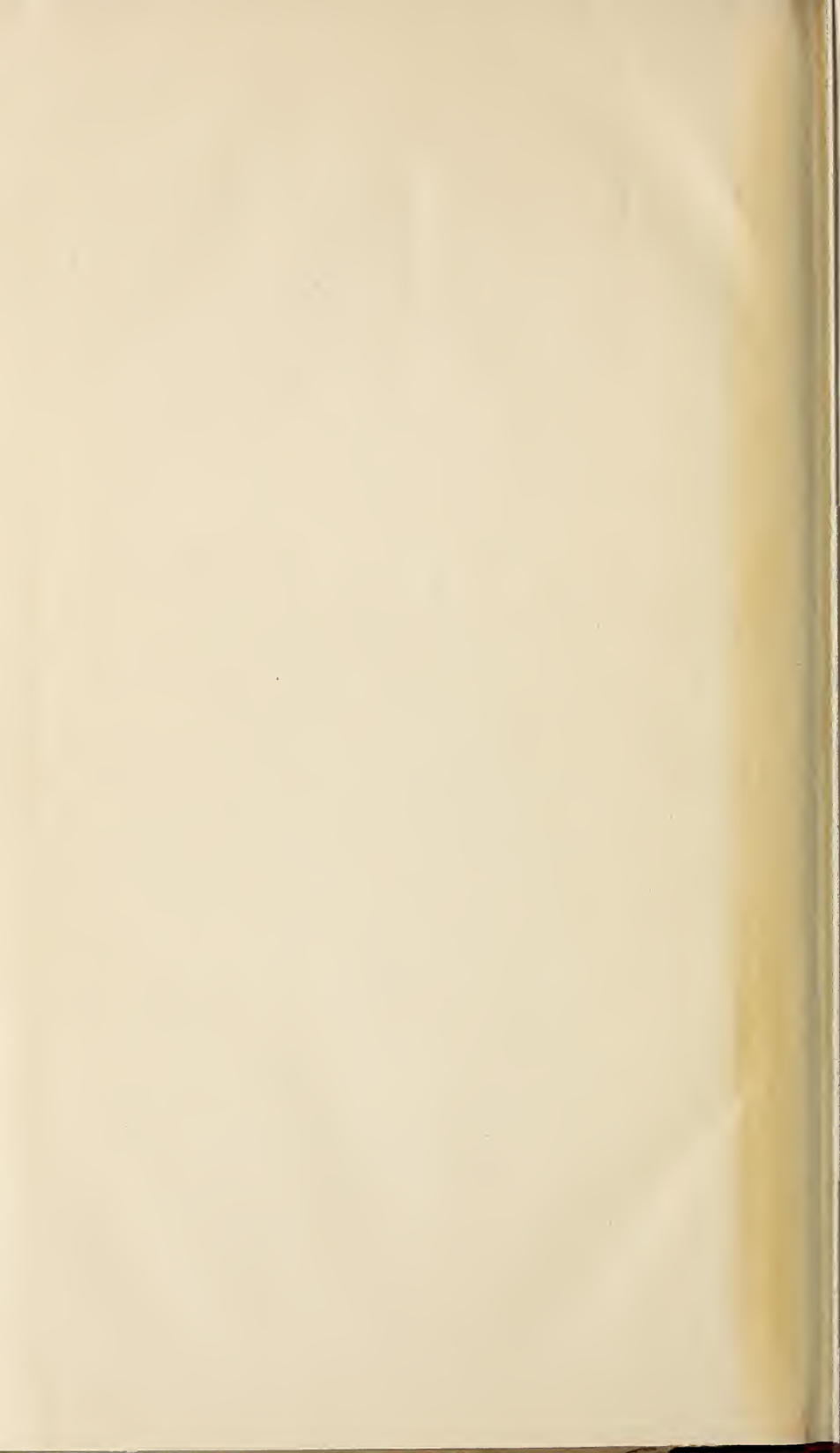
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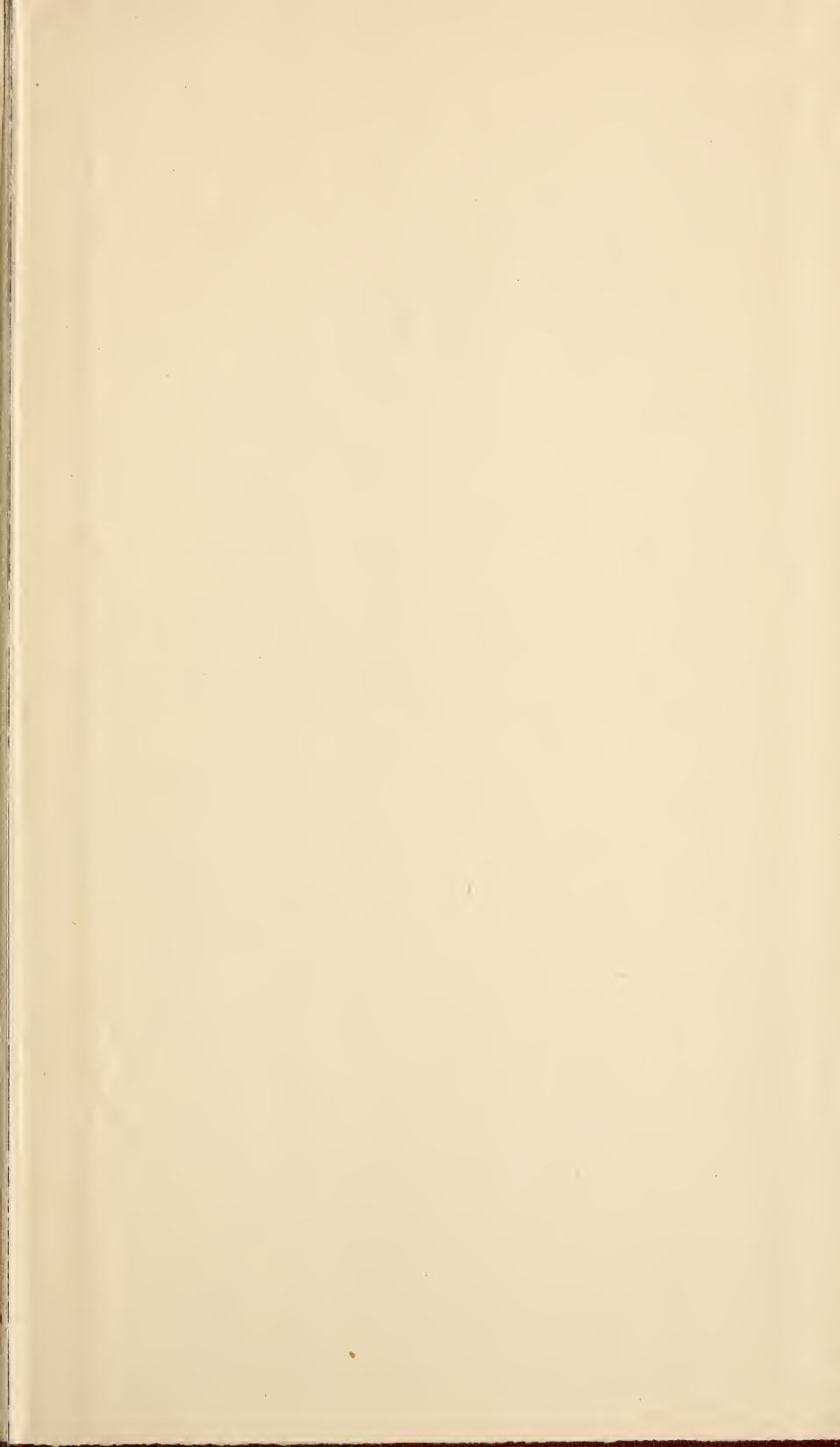
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